BYAAAH!!!

NO WEBSITE
NO MIRC
NO E-MAIL

HERE'S THE 8TH VOLUME OF THE MANGA: GHOST HUNT
FOR THE FANS BY A FAN.
REMEMBER, IF YOU LIKE IT, GO BUY IT!
PAGES HAVE BEEN CROPPED TO GET RID OF THE GUTTER,
BUT IT'S STILL VISIBLE,
AS I REALLY DON'T CARE TOO MUCH ABOUT THE QUALITY.
SCANNED) CROPPED) CLEANED) SAVED.
ALSO I'VE DONE A QUICK JOB ON ANY DOUBLE PAGE SPREADS,
JUST TO MAKE IT EASIER TO READ.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE MY ATTEMPT, GO BUY IT FOR
YOURSELVES AND ENJOY YOUR OWN VERSION..
ANYHOW ENJOY!

NEXT UP: NO IDEA
NOTE: HMM
BACK TO SCANNING I SUPPOSE.

TILL NEXT TIME, ENJOY!

RU

8

GHOST HUNT

Manga by Shiho Inada

Story by Fuyumi Ono

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GHOST HUNT

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Shiho Inada
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GHOST HUNT

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MANGA BY SHIHO INAOA

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TRANSLATED BY EGAN LOD

ADAPTED BY DAVID WALSH

LETTERED BY FOLTZ DESIGN

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CONTENTS

Honorifics Explained.....v
File 1.....5
File 2.....47
File 3.....85
File 4.....123
About the Creators.....174
Translation Notes.....175
Preview of Ghost Hunt 9.....179

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics, and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), as a title at the end of one's name, or in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei" or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many translations into English leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono" which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/ Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai," and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

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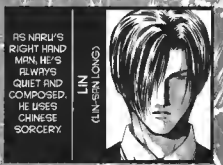
FROM THE
EVIL SPIRIT SERIES
GHOST HUNT
8
THE CURSED HOUSE

HOUSHOU TAKIGAWA (MONK-SAN)

FORMERLY A MONK AT KOUYA MOUNTAIN. YOU CAN COUNT ON HIM LIKE A BIG BROTHER.

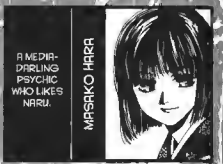


LIN (LIN-SAN LONG)

AS NARU'S RIGHT HAND MAN, HE'S ALWAYS QUIET AND COMPOSED. HE USES CHINESE SORCERY.

JOHN BROWN

AN EXORCIST THAT SPEAKS WITH A KANSAI ACCENT. HE'S ACTUALLY OLDER THAN NARU!



MASAKO HARA

A MEDIA-DARLING PSYCHIC WHO LIKES NARU.

OSAMU YASUHARA

A FORMER CLIENT. HE ASSISTS SPR WITH HIS INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING PROWESS.

AYAKO MATSUZAKI

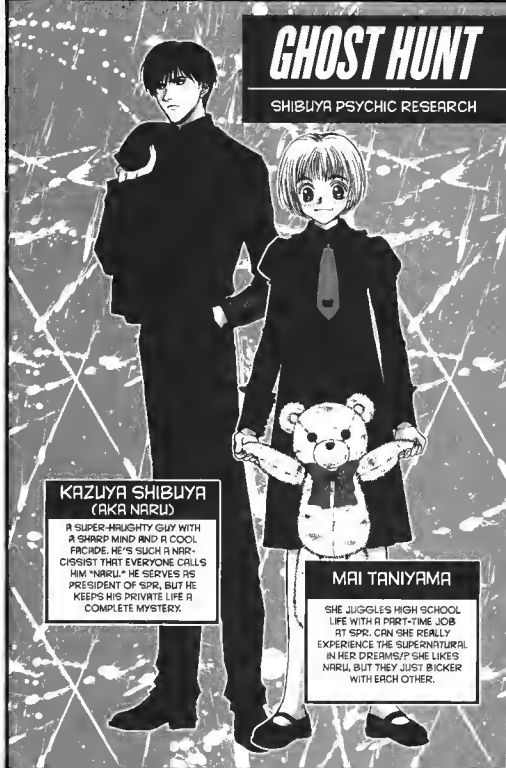
A SELF-CLAIMED "MIKO." ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE DID DEMONSTRATE SUPERNATURAL POWERS ONCE...

SHIBUYA PSYCHIC RESEARCH

A.K.A. SPR, AN INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY ON PSYCHIC PHENOMENA THAT NARU HEADS AS ITS PRESIDENT. SPR INVESTIGATES AND, THROUGH SCIENCE, UNRAVELS THE BIZARRE PHENOMENA THAT CLIENTS BRING TO ITS ATTENTION. SO FAR, IT HAS SOLVED POLTERGEIST TROUBLE AT AN OLD WESTERN-STYLE HOUSE, SPIRITUAL PHENOMENA AT A HIGH SCHOOL USING EXORCISM, DISAPPEARANCES AT AN ANCIENT LABYRINTHINE MANSION, AND MORE.

GHOST HUNT

SHIBUYA PSYCHIC RESEARCH

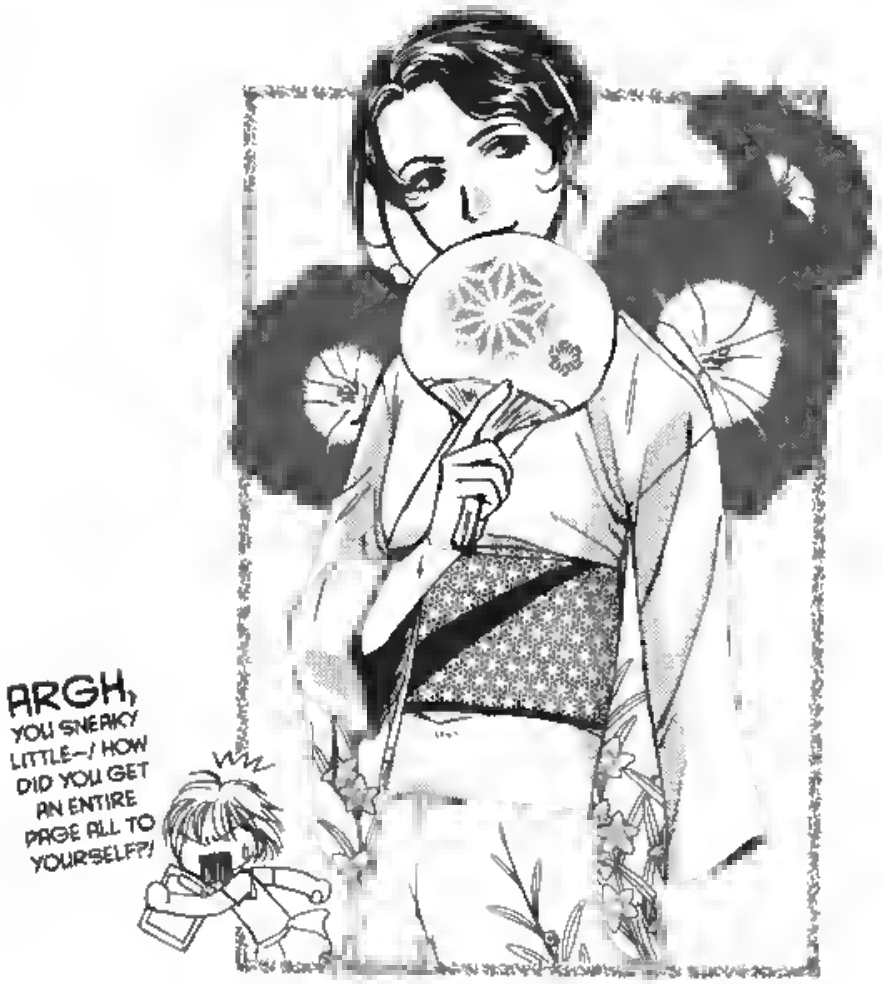


KAZUYA SHIBUYA (AKA NARU)

A SUPER-NAUGHTY GUY WITH A SHARP MIND AND A COOL FACADE. HE'S SUCH A NARCISSIST THAT EVERYONE CALLS HIM "NARU." HE SERVES AS PRESIDENT OF SPR, BUT HE KEEPS HIS PRIVATE LIFE A COMPLETE MYSTERY.

MAI TANIYAMA

SHE JUGGLES HIGH SCHOOL LIFE WITH A PART-TIME JOB AT SPR. CAN SHE REALLY EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL IN HER DREAMS!? SHE LIKES NARU, BUT THEY JUST BICKER WITH EACH OTHER.


ARGH,
YOU SNEAKY LITTLE-! HOW DID YOU GET AN ENTIRE PAGE ALL TO YOURSELF?!

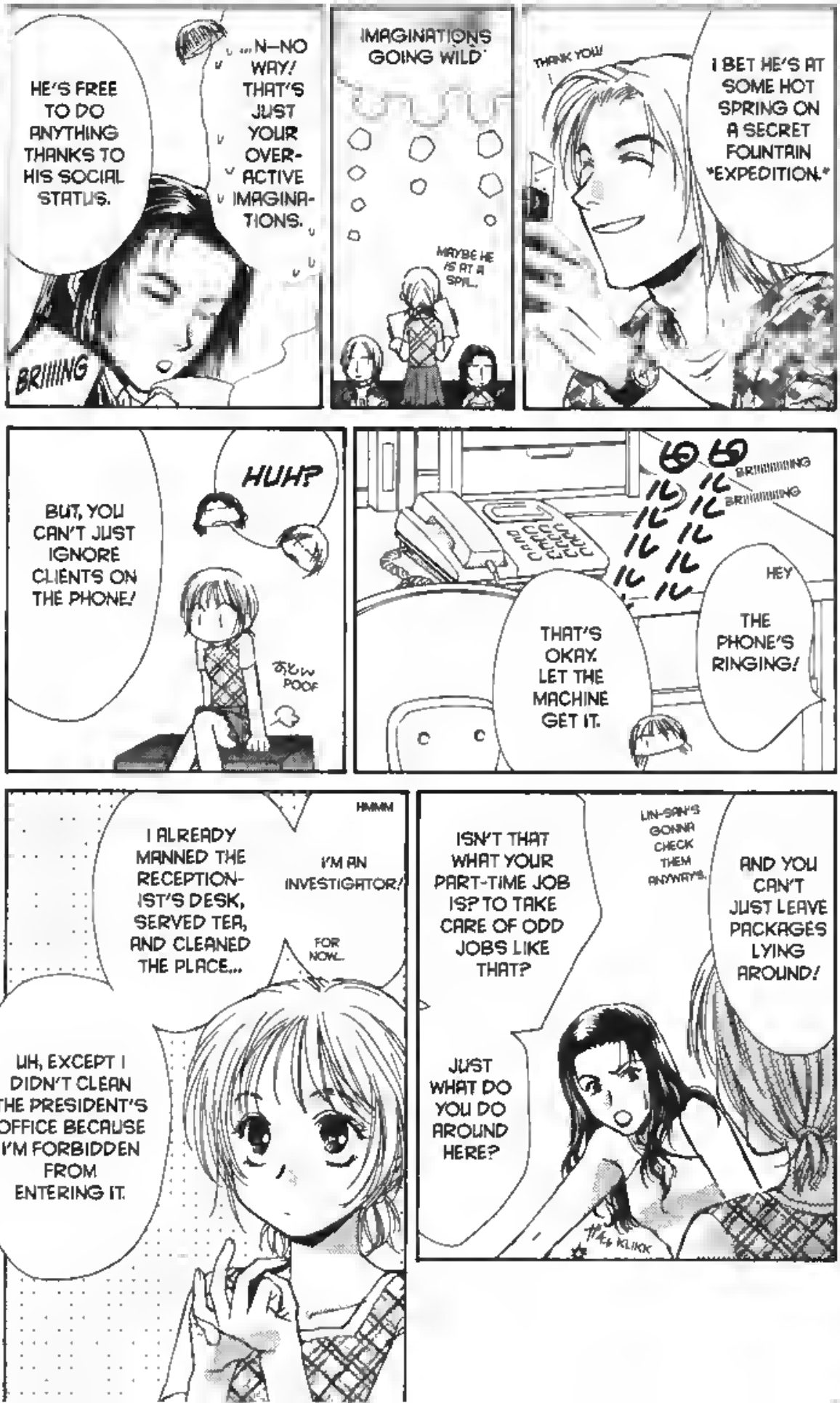
FLUTTER FLUTTER
CHIRP CHIRP!
CHIRP!
CHIRP CHIRP!
CHIRP
CHIRP CHIRP!
KRASH! KLANK!

GHOST HUNT

— THE CURSED HOUSE —

FILE 1

SHIIIIIN
SHIIIIIN
WHAT?
SPR
Shibuya Psychic Research
NARU'S STILL NOT BACK FROM HIS TRIP?
NOT YET. ALL HE SAID WAS THAT HE'S COMING BACK TODAY.
I'M SURPRISED HE'S COMING BACK. IT SEEMS NARU'S ALWAYS GOING OFF SOMEWHERE.
THAT'S WHY LIN-SAN'S "BABY-SITTING."
I CAN'T BELIEVE HIM. HE'S PROBABLY OUT SIGHT-SEEING, DON'T YOU THINK?


HE'S FREE TO DO ANYTHING THANKS TO HIS SOCIAL STATUS.
...N-NO WAY! THAT'S JUST YOUR OVER-ACTIVE IMAGINA-TIONS.
BRIIIING
IMAGINATIONS GOING WILD
MAYBE HE IS AT A SPA...
THINK YOU!
I BET HE'S AT SOME HOT SPRING ON A SECRET FOUNTAIN "EXPEDITION."
BUT, YOU CAN'T JUST IGNORE CLIENTS ON THE PHONE!
HUH?
POOF
BRIIIIIIIIING
BRIIIIIIIIING
THAT'S OKAY. LET THE MACHINE GET IT.
HEY
THE PHONE'S RINGING!
HMMM
I ALREADY MANNED THE RECEPTION-IST'S DESK, SERVED TEA, AND CLEANED THE PLACE...
I'M AN INVESTIGATOR!
FOR NOW.
UH, EXCEPT I DIDN'T CLEAN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE BECAUSE I'M FORBIDDEN FROM ENTERING IT.
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOUR PART-TIME JOB IS? TO TAKE CARE OF ODD JOBS LIKE THAT?
LIN-SAN'S GONNA CHECK THEM ANYWAYS.
AND YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE PACKAGES LYING AROUND!
JUST WHAT DO YOU DO AROUND HERE?
KLIKK

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT!?
!?
WHAT THE-!?
BUT ON AVERAGE, ABOUT AS MUCH AS A LOW-PAID OFFICE LADY.
ABOUT
IT'S DIFFERENT BETWEEN MONTHS WHEN WE HAVE CASES AND MONTHS WHEN WE DON'T...
HOW MUCH DO YOU GET PAID FOR DOING SUCH LITTLE WORK?
AND YOU'RE GETTING FULL-TIME OL PAY FOR PART-TIME WORK!?
HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK SHIBUYA HAS TO PAY TO RENT AN OFFICE IN THIS UPSCALE DISTRICT?
I CAN'T IMAGINE WE'RE PROFITABLE IF NARU-BOU HAS THAT KIND OF FINANCIAL SENSE.
DOESN'T DO THE CHORES HE IGNORES
...APPARENTLY
DON'T WE GET ENOUGH IN CLIENT FEES AND IOUS?
WELL, OUR CASELOAD IS HEAVY, SO I'M NOT GOING TO REFUSE IT!
KLIKK
WELL, WASN'T HE LOADED BEFORE—
NO, NO—
FOR STARTERS, BEING A PROFESSOR IS NOT THAT LUCRATIVE.
BUT, HEY, WASN'T HIS FATHER A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR? ISN'T HE LOADED...

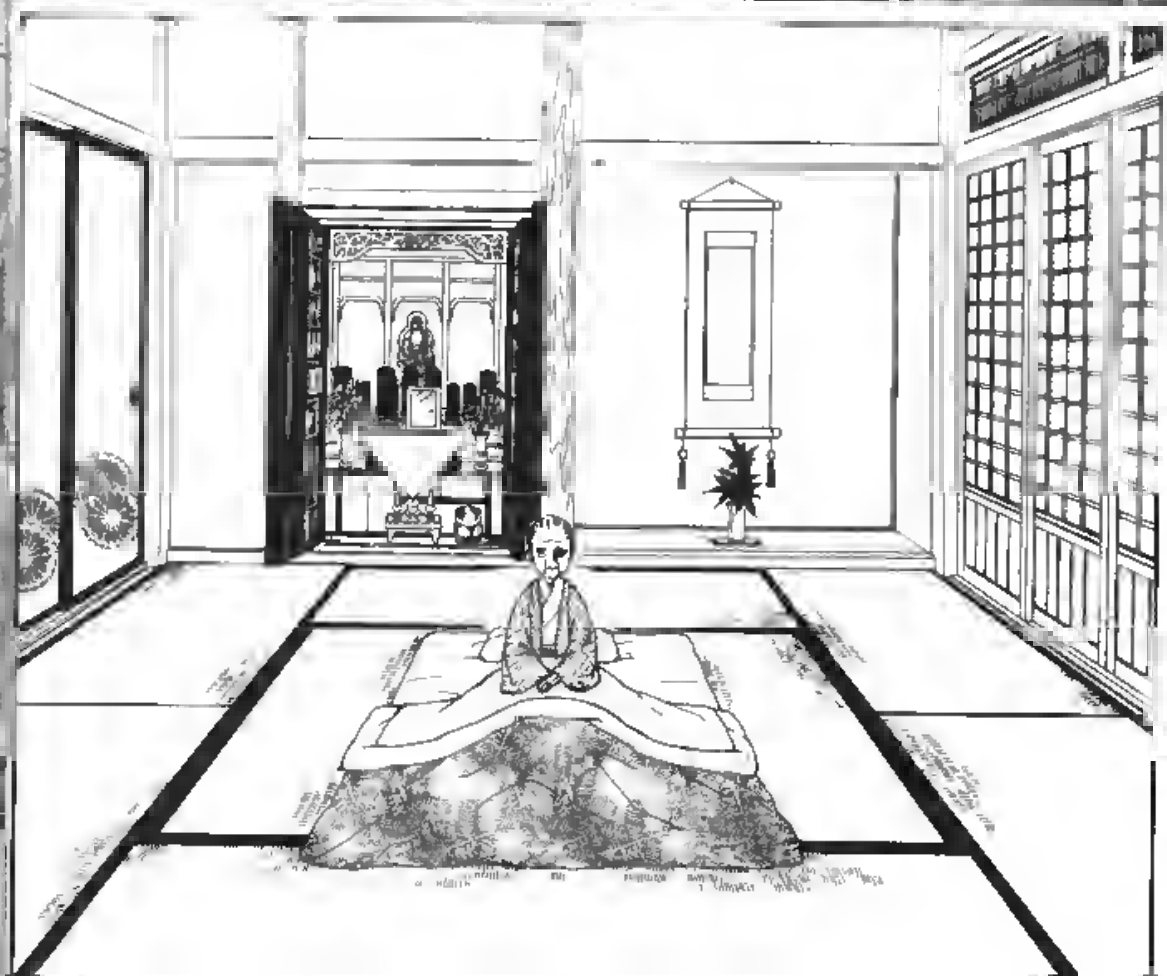
ZPPPPP
スタスタ
W-
WAIT--
OH, NARU, WELCOME BACK!
DON'T MIND ME!
SLAMMM!!!
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
WHY'S HE IN SUCH A FOUL MOOD?
HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT AFTER HE GETS BACK
カラ
KLIKK
UHHH--
WELCOME!
UM...
GOOD AFTER-NOON... YOU ARE...
...WHAT ONE WOULD CALL "MEDIUMS," RIGHT?

I WAS THINKING OF JUST BRINGING HER TO A HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT, BUT...
BLINK BLINK
I'M AKIFUMI YOSHIMI.
AND THIS IS MY NIECE, HAZUKI.
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WOULD EXAMINE HER...
IT'S ALL RIGHT— WE'RE NOT GOING TO ONE.
I HATE HOSPITALS!
NARU-CHAN, IT'S ALL RIGHT IF WE EXAMINE HER, ISN'T IT?
IT WON'T TAKE LONG.
PLEASE HELP US.

FIRST PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THIS...
RUSTLE
ALL RIGHT
I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
IT HURTS...
THIS CIRCLES HER ENTIRE NECK.
WHOA...
SKIN DISEASES LIKE THAT ARE NOTHING UNUSUAL...
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL...
IF IT WERE, WE WOULD'VE JUST GONE TO A HOSPITAL, BUT...

MONK-SAN...
...THIS IS A KAIMYOU.
...WHA-
"KAIMYOU"...
DO YOU MEAN THE NAME GIVEN TO A DEAD PERSON!?
RIGHT.
HOW HORRIBLE...!
...WHAT DOES...
...IT SAY IN THE WRITING?
...*ZEN-GETSU IN RAKUGOKU DOUNYO*
"ZEN-GETSU" MEANS THE FOOLISHNESS OF FEARING SOMETHING TOO MUCH.
"RAKUGOKU" MEANS "DESCENDING INTO HELL."
AND "DOUNYO" MEANS "GIRL."

"DESCEND INTO HELL"—!
THE KAIMYOU WAS BRANDED ONTO THIS GIRL BY SOMEONE WISHING HER HARM.
THE "GETSU" IN "ZEN-GETSU" IS PROBABLY TAKEN FROM THE SAME CHINESE CHARACTER USED FOR "ZUKI" IN "HAZUKI".
IT MEANS, "THIS FOOLISH GIRL WILL DESCEND INTO HELL."



YOU CAN SIT BACK, YOU KNOW.
YEAH...
WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THIS.
ORDINARILY, I WOULD NOT MAKE A REQUEST LIKE THIS...
...BUT I'M ACTING ON BEHALF OF MY GRAND-NIECE.
MY NAME IS YAE YOSHIMI.
PARDON ME.
SWUUSH
WE ARE HONORED WITH YOUR PRESENCE.
PLEASE HAVE SOME.
UH, THANK YOU.
THIS IS MY FATHER, TAIZOU, AND MY MOTHER, HIROE.
TSUYAKI
EEEK, I'M GETTING NERVOUS...
SO...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE RECEIVED TEA LIKE THIS.

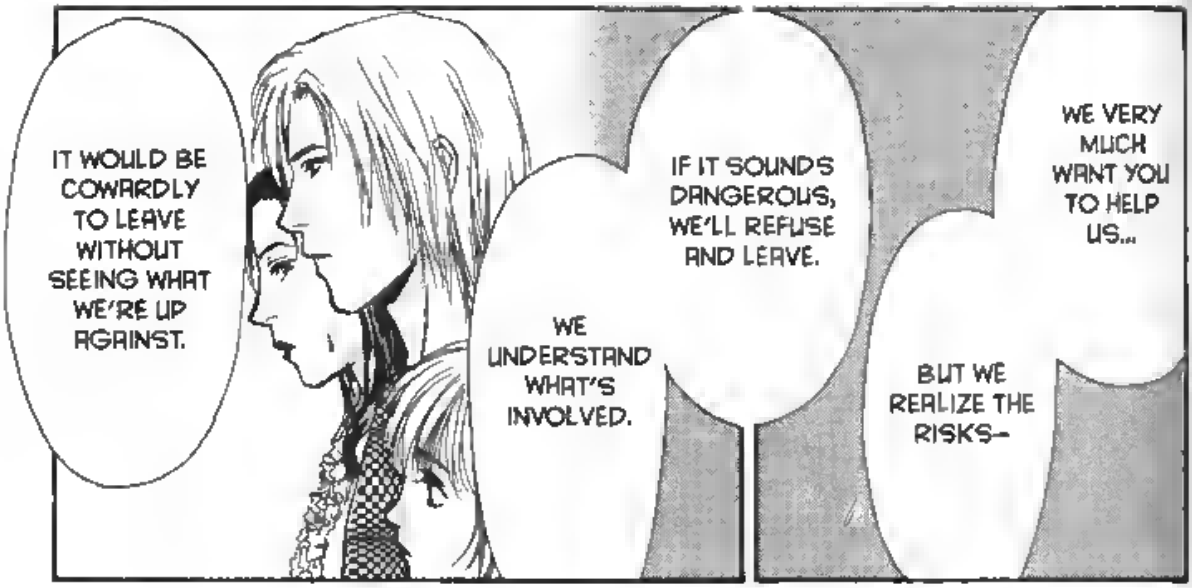
ALL RIGHT.
WE HUMBLY WISH TO HEAR THE DETAILS OF THE CASE AGAIN FROM YOUR GRANDMOTHER.
ACTUALLY, WHEN THE LAST OWNER—MY FATHER—PASSED AWAY, PEOPLE BEGAN DYING IN ALARMING NUMBERS.
AND WHEN MY GRANDPARENTS DIED AND PASSED THE HOUSE DOWN TO MY FATHER, THE SAME THING HAPPENED.
I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH FIRST-HAND BECAUSE AT THE TIME I WAS VERY YOUNG...
HOWEVER—
THERE ARE HORRIBLE LEGENDS CONCERNING THE YOSHIMI HOUSE.
GREAT MISFORTUNE WOULD OCCUR WHENEVER THE HOUSE WOULD CHANGE HANDS.
IF I WERE TO SPEAK FREELY AND OPENLY ABOUT IT...
YOU'D PROBABLY THINK ME A FOOL...
BUT THIS HOUSE IS CURSED.

AMONG MY SIX SIBLINGS, I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO SURVIVED.
SEVERAL DAYS AGO, MY HUSBAND PASSED AWAY...
AND SOON AFTER, THOSE RASHES BEGAN APPEARING ON HAZUKI. NOT EVEN ONE WEEK HAD PASSED.
THE RASHES APPEARED AS KAIMYOU ON HER BACK AND AROUND HER ENTIRE NECK LIKE A CUT.
I WISH TO HEAR ABOUT WHEN YOUR FATHER PASSED AWAY...
WHEN WAS IT?
IT'S BEEN 32 YEARS NOW.
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW MANY PEOPLE DIED IN TOTAL?
YES...
THERE WERE EIGHT FROM THIS HOUSE.

THE YOUNGEST FIVE AMONG THE SEVEN CHILDREN...
...THE OLDEST GRANDCHILD, MY COUSIN, AND MY UNCLE...
THE HALF THAT SURVIVED ACCIDENTS PASSED AWAY DUE TO UN-EXPLAINABLE ILLNESSES.
EIGHT PEOPLE...
YOU SAID "FROM THIS HOUSE"-- WERE THERE ALSO OTHERS OUTSIDE THE FAMILY WHO DIED?
MOTHER-
YES...
CUSTOMERS... OF OUR RESTAURANT...
MOTHER IS WORRIED THAT SOME OF YOU MIGHT NOT LEAVE HERE ALIVE.
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
YOU SHOULD TELL THEM EVERY-THING.
WHAT?

...THREE MEDIUMS HAVE ALSO DIED.

I SEE.

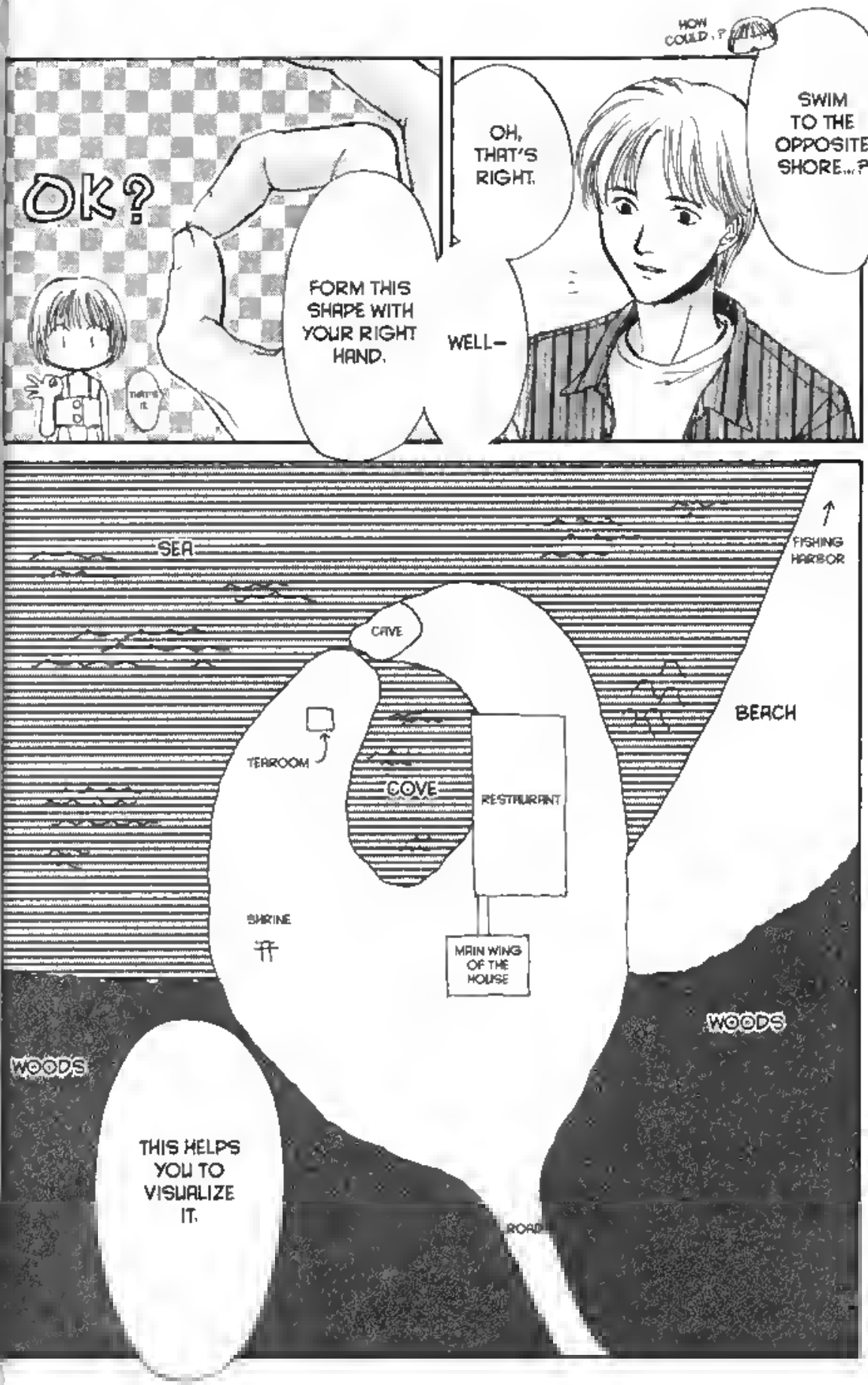

IT WOULD BE COWARDLY TO LEAVE WITHOUT SEEING WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST.
WE UNDERSTAND WHAT'S INVOLVED.
IF IT SOUNDS DANGEROUS, WE'LL REFUSE AND LEAVE.
BUT WE REALIZE THE RISKS—
WE VERY MUCH WANT YOU TO HELP US...

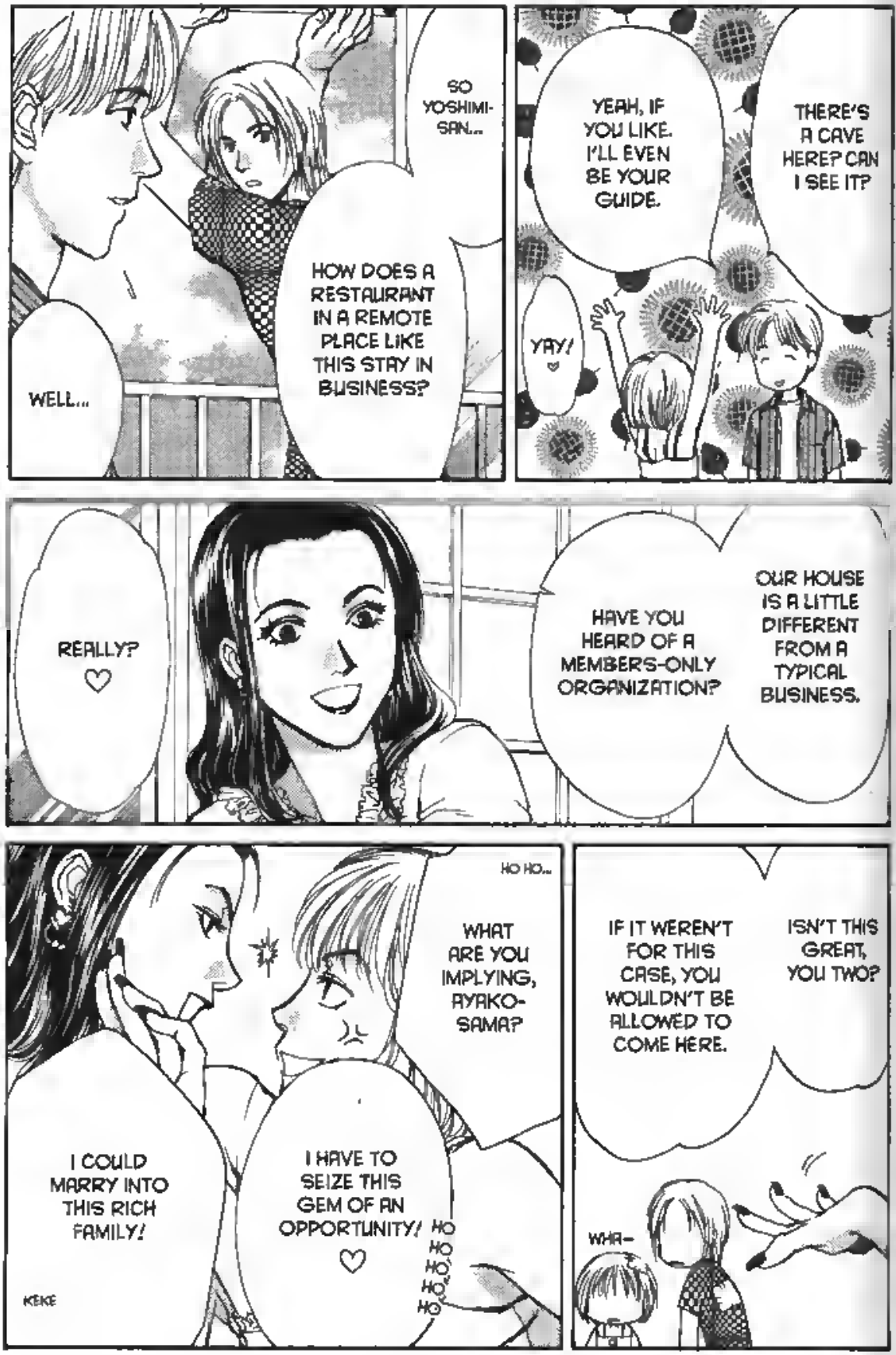
ARE THERE CUSTOMERS IN THE RESTAURANT NOW?
NOT RIGHT NOW.
SINCE FATHER PASSED AWAY, WE'VE CLOSED IT.
WE LET OUR EMPLOYEES, AND EVEN THE FUNERAL WORKERS TAKE A VACATION.
ONLY OUR FAMILY IS IN THIS BUILDING NOW.
BUT DOING SO WOULD PUT THE RESTAURANT CUSTOMERS IN DANGER.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, NARU-CHAN?
FIRST, THE MYNA BIRD THAT MY GRANDMOTHER RAISED DIED ON THE DAY OF MY GRANDFATHER'S FUNERAL.
MAYBE THREE DAYS LATER, TWO MORE BIRDS AND THREE DOGS THAT SHE RAISED ALSO DIED.
BY THE WAY, DID YOU FEEL ANYTHING ABNORMAL, OR PERHAPS SEE ANYTHING STRANGE?
I THINK THAT WAS A PRUDENT STER
OH
...YES.

ANY-THING ELSE?
UGH
BUT WE FOUND THE DOGS ALL WASHED ASHORE.
THE BIRDS DIED IN THEIR CAGES...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THAT WAS?
PEEKING INTO A ROOM FROM A WINDOW...
SOME OF THE WORKERS AT THE RESTAURANT SAID THEY SAW GHOSTS...
I'LL LEAD YOU THERE.
DID YOU PREPARE A ROOM FOR US?
IN ANY CASE, WE BROUGHT OUR EQUIPMENT.
THAT'S THE ONLY PLACE WHERE PEOPLE OUTSIDE CAN LOOK IN.
NO... BUT IT WAS PROBABLY THE ROOM OVER-LOOKING THE COVE.
...I SEE.

OOH—
WOWWWW!
WE SET UP THIS ROOM AND THE ROOM NEXT DOOR FOR YOU...
PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM WHILE THE RESTAURANT IS CLOSED.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THIS IS AMAZING! IT'S HUMONGOUS! I'VE NEVER SEEN A JAPANESE-STYLE ROOM THIS BIG!
IT SEEMS SACRILEGIOUS TO USE IT AS OUR BASE OF OPERATIONS!
WOW, AND THE NEXT ROOM'S EVEN BIGGER!
HEY, NOW!

HEY-
THIS IS THE ROOM THAT OVERLOOKS THE COVE.
IT MUST BE.
THIS IS DEFINITELY WHERE GHOSTS COULD PEEK INSIDE.
WHOA!
CAN YOU SEE DOWN BELOW?
YES, WE CAN.
THAT'S THE SEA, RIGHT?
OH, CAN WE SWIM HERE?
SWIMMING IS ONE OF OUR ATTRACTIONS- BUT THE WATER IS EXTREMELY DEEP HERE.
THERE'S A BEACH ON THE OPPOSITE SHORE IF YOU WANNA SWIM THERE.


OK?
THAT'S IT.
FORM THIS SHAPE WITH YOUR RIGHT HAND.
WELL—
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
HOW COULD...?
SWIM TO THE OPPOSITE SHORE...?
SEA
FISHING HARBOR
CAVE
BEACH
TEAROOM
COVE
RESTAURANT
SHRINE
MAIN WING OF THE HOUSE
WOODS
WOODS
THIS HELPS YOU TO VISUALIZE IT.
ROAD


SO YOSHIMI-SAN...
HOW DOES A RESTAURANT IN A REMOTE PLACE LIKE THIS STAY IN BUSINESS?
WELL...
THERE'S A CAVE HERE? CAN I SEE IT?
YEAH, IF YOU LIKE. I'LL EVEN BE YOUR GUIDE.
YAY! ♡
OUR HOUSE IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM A TYPICAL BUSINESS.
HAVE YOU HEARD OF A MEMBERS-ONLY ORGANIZATION?
REALLY? ♡
ISN'T THIS GREAT, YOU TWO?
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS CASE, YOU WOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO COME HERE.
WHA—
HO HO...
WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING, AYAKO-SAMA?
I HAVE TO SEIZE THIS GEM OF AN OPPORTUNITY! ♡
HO HO HO HO
I COULD MARRY INTO THIS RICH FAMILY!
KEKE

A MERE CHILD COULDN'T APPRECIATE THIS GLAMOUR.
HMMM...BUT SHOULDN'T YOU HURRY UP AND MAKE YOUR MOVE? AREN'T YOU ALREADY 30?
WHO'S 30! I'M ONLY 23!
DO I DETECT A TOUCH OF HOARSENESS IN YOUR VOICE?
THERE'S NOTHING CUTE ABOUT YOU!
YOU'RE TICKING ME OFF!
GYAA!
ROAR!

HEHE HE...

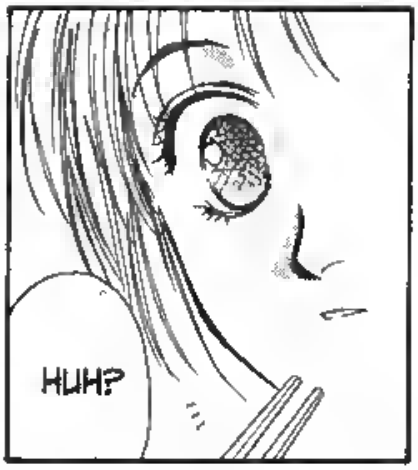
UM—
ME? I'LL BE 20 SOON, BUT...
SO! YOSHIMI-SAN, HOW OLD ARE YOU?
.....
...HEY NOW
BLUSH
SO, HE'S STILL UNDERAGE.
I'M SORRY..
WOBBLE
SMIRK

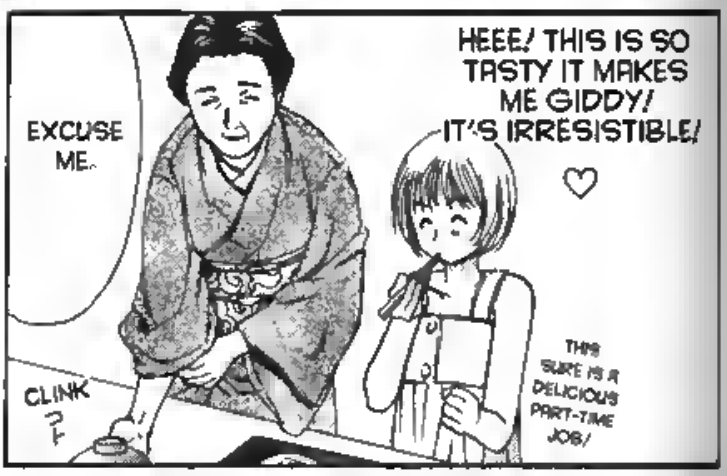
YOU TWO...
I-I'M SORRY.

MAI! HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY AROUND?
YES SIR!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDER-STANDING.
WE APOLOGIZE FOR CALLING YOU HERE NOW.

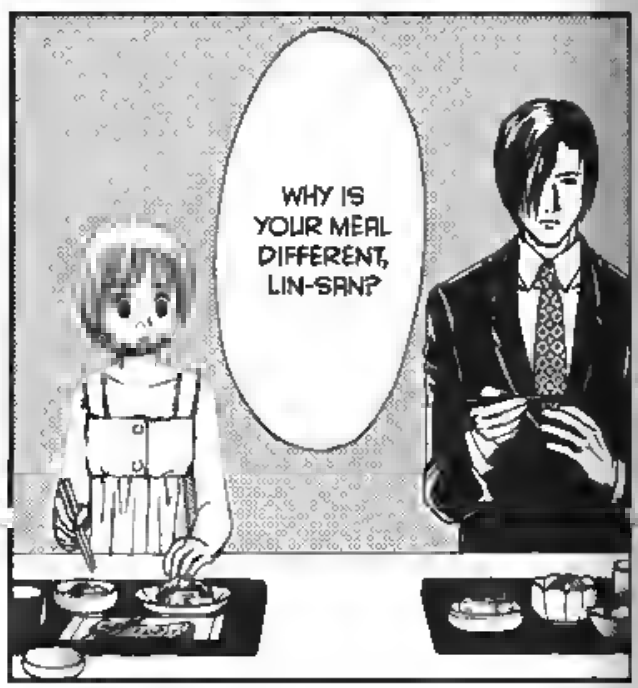
AND THAT'S EIJIROU-SAN, A SON-IN-LAW...
THE SECOND OLDEST, YASUTAKA-SAN.
...UM...
THAT MAN IS THE OLDEST SON, KASUYASU-SAN.
UH... NAO-SAN, THE SECOND OLDEST DAUGHTER. SHE'S JUST A LITTLE OLDER THAN [illegible] SAN.
THE OLDEST DAUGHTER, TERUKA-SAN...SHE'S EIJIROU-SAN'S WIFE.
NEXT IS KASUYASU-SAN'S WIFE, YOUKO-SAN.
NO.
NEITHER LIN NOR I DRINK.
THAT'S RIGHT, THEY'RE UNDERAGE.
SHIBUYA-SAN, WOULD YOU LIKE SAKE?
YES!
GOOD, I REMEMBERED THEM ALL.

TAKIGAWA-SAN, MATSUZAKI-SAN? HOW ABOUT YOU?
THANK YOU.

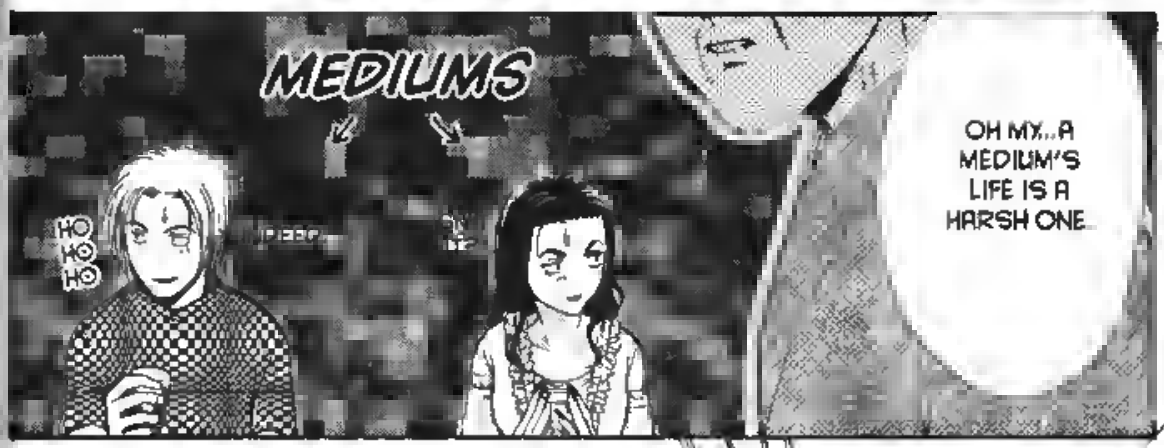

HUH?

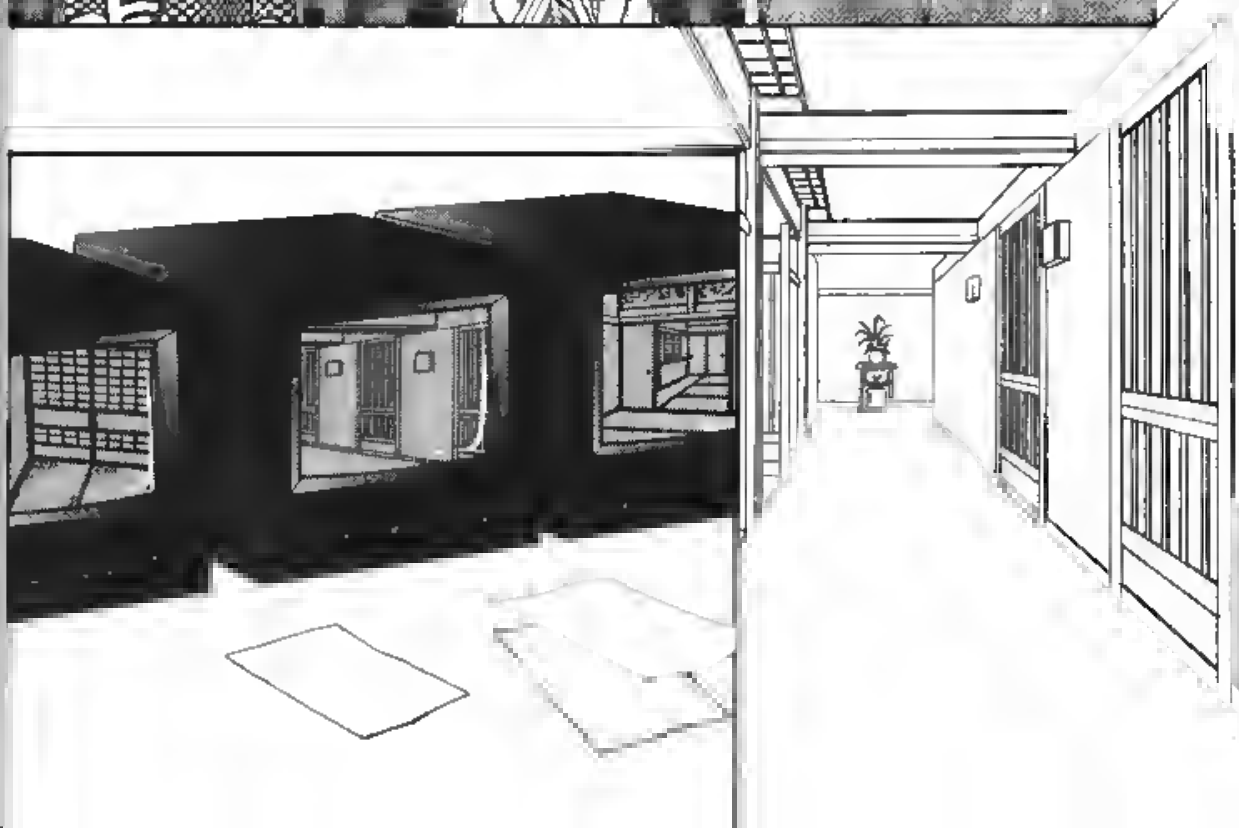

EXCUSE ME.
HEEE! THIS IS SO TASTY IT MAKES ME GIDDY! IT'S IRRESISTIBLE!
CLINK
THIS SURE IS A DELICIOUS PART-TIME JOB!

...WAS I MISTAKEN?
I HEARD THAT SHIBUYA-SAN AND LIN-SAN DON'T EAT MEAT, SO I CHANGED THEIR MENUS...


WHY IS YOUR MEAL DIFFERENT, LIN-SAN?

DURING INVESTIGATIONS, I REFRAIN FROM MEAT TO PURIFY MYSELF.
AFTER ALL, WE'RE SO CLOSE TO THE SEA.
SHALL WE BRING A LITTLE SOME-THING OUTSIDE?
HUH?
LIN-SAN, YOU DON'T EAT MEAT? AT ALL? YOU'RE A VEGETARIAN?
YES.


MEDIUMS
HO HO HO
OH MY... A MEDIUM'S LIFE IS A HARSH ONE.



USUALLY, THERE ARE MORE CLUES TO INVESTIGATE.
SHOULDN'T WE?
ARE YOU PLANNING TO START MONITORING TONIGHT?
BUT WE'LL TRY GOING TO THE LOCAL LIBRARY IN THE MORNING.
—MONK-SAN, DO YOU HAVE A PROTECTIVE CHARM FOR HAZUKI-CHAN?
WHO'S GOING?
AKIFUMI-SAN!
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK SO FAR. DO YOU MIND IF I COME IN?
I BROUGHT YOU SOME TEA.
AND YOU BROUGHT THE POT TOO!
WOW!
KNOCK KNOCK
HEY, HEY!
OF COURSE!
AND I SET UP A SPIRIT BARRIER AROUND THE ROOM, BOSS.

PLEASE, HAVE SOME.
DID YOU ENJOY YOUR MEAL?
ANY PLACE THAT SERVES TEA FROM TIME TO TIME HAS GOT TO BE GOOD!
THANKS A LOT! ♡
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD CUISINE LIKE THAT SO I WAS ACTUALLY KINDA NERVOUS.
IT WAS VERY SATISFYING!
YOUR BROTHERS BARELY SAID A WORD THE WHOLE MEAL.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOUR FAMILY SURE IS QUIET WHEN THEY EAT.
I'M SORRY... THEY'RE USUALLY QUITE LIVELY, BUT...
LATELY THEY'VE BEEN MOODY.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. THEY'RE WORRIED.
EIJIROU-SAN SEEMED TO BE IN PARTICULARLY BAD MOOD.

ALL OF A SUDDEN? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I WONDERED WHAT HAPPENED ALL OF A SUDDEN...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW THAT ODD EXPRESSION ON EIJIROU-NIISAN.
ORIGINALLY, THEY HAD GREAT MANNERS. GOOD SOCIAL MANNER'S ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO THE SERVICE INDUSTRY.
KAZU-NIISAN AND EIJIROU-NIISAN HELP OUT AT THE RESTAURANT.
THAT'S RIGHT... KAZU-NIISAN HAS ALSO BEEN TENSE THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS.
AND THE SAME GOES FOR KAZUYASU-SAN?
SO YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THAT LOOK ON EIJIROU-SAN'S FACE BEFORE?

BUT I COULDN'T SAY WHY.
I'D SAY EVER SINCE MY GRAND-FATHER'S FUNERAL.
HAS ANYONE ELSE'S PERSONALITY CHANGED?
WHEN DID YOU NOTICE A CHANGE IN YASUTAKA-SAN'S PERSONALITY?
YASU-NIISAN USED TO BE A CHEERFUL PERSON.
IN FACT, MY MOM AND DAD USED TO SCOLD HIM FOR BEING TOO CHEERFUL.
YES... YOUKO-NEESAN'S ALSO.
—BUT...
AS IN HAZUKI-CHAN?
THE ONES WHOSE PERSONALITIES CHANGED THE MOST ARE THE CHILDREN.

NO, THERE ARE TWO MORE CHILDREN BESIDES HER.
KAZU-NIISAN HAS TWO CHILDREN, KATSUKI AND HAZUKI...AND TERUKA-NEESAN HAS ONE CHILD, WAKAKO—
KATSUKI AND WAKAKO ARE THE ONE'S WHO HAVE GOTTEN... STRANGE.
"STRANGE"...?
HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS...
UNTIL NOW, THEY WERE PERFECTLY NORMAL... BUT RECENTLY, THEY'VE BEEN CLINGING ON TO EACH OTHER.
ON TOP OF THAT, THEY'VE BEEN SECRETLY TALKING NONSTOP TO THEMSELVES.
AND IF YOU TRY TO HEAR WHAT THEY'RE SAYING, THEY EXCHANGE LOOKS AND RUN OFF.
WHEN DID THIS BEHAVIOR START?
AROUND THE TIME OF GRAND-FATHER'S FUNERAL, OF COURSE.

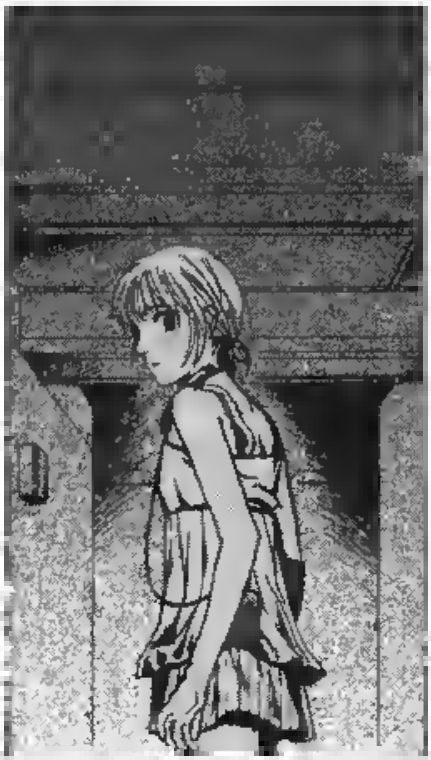
...BUT THEN, TWO OR THREE DAYS LATER, SHE SEEMED TO HAVE STOPPED...
NATURALLY, YOUKO-NEESAN WAS WORRYING A LOT AFTER THAT...
I SEE...

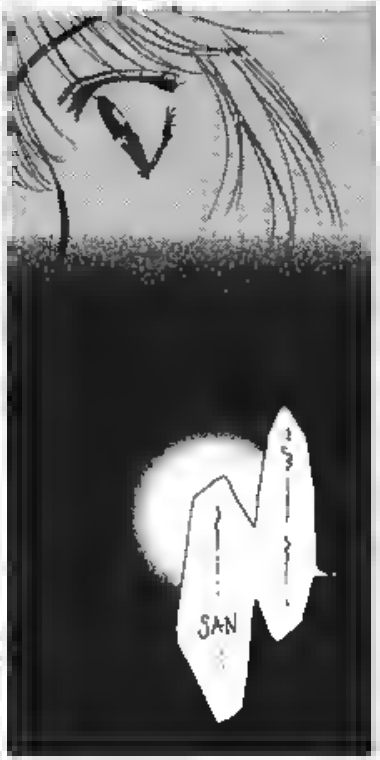
SIGH.
WHATEVER.
IS THIS CAMERA ANGLE OKAY?
IT'S FINE. GET BACK HERE.
YIKES, THEY MUST HAVE TURNED OFF THE CORRIDOR LIGHTS SOME TIME AGO.
IT'S PITCH-BLACK.
OH WELL. OUR BASE IS JUST RIGHT AHEAD.
THERE'S EVEN AN EMERGENCY EXIT LIGHT

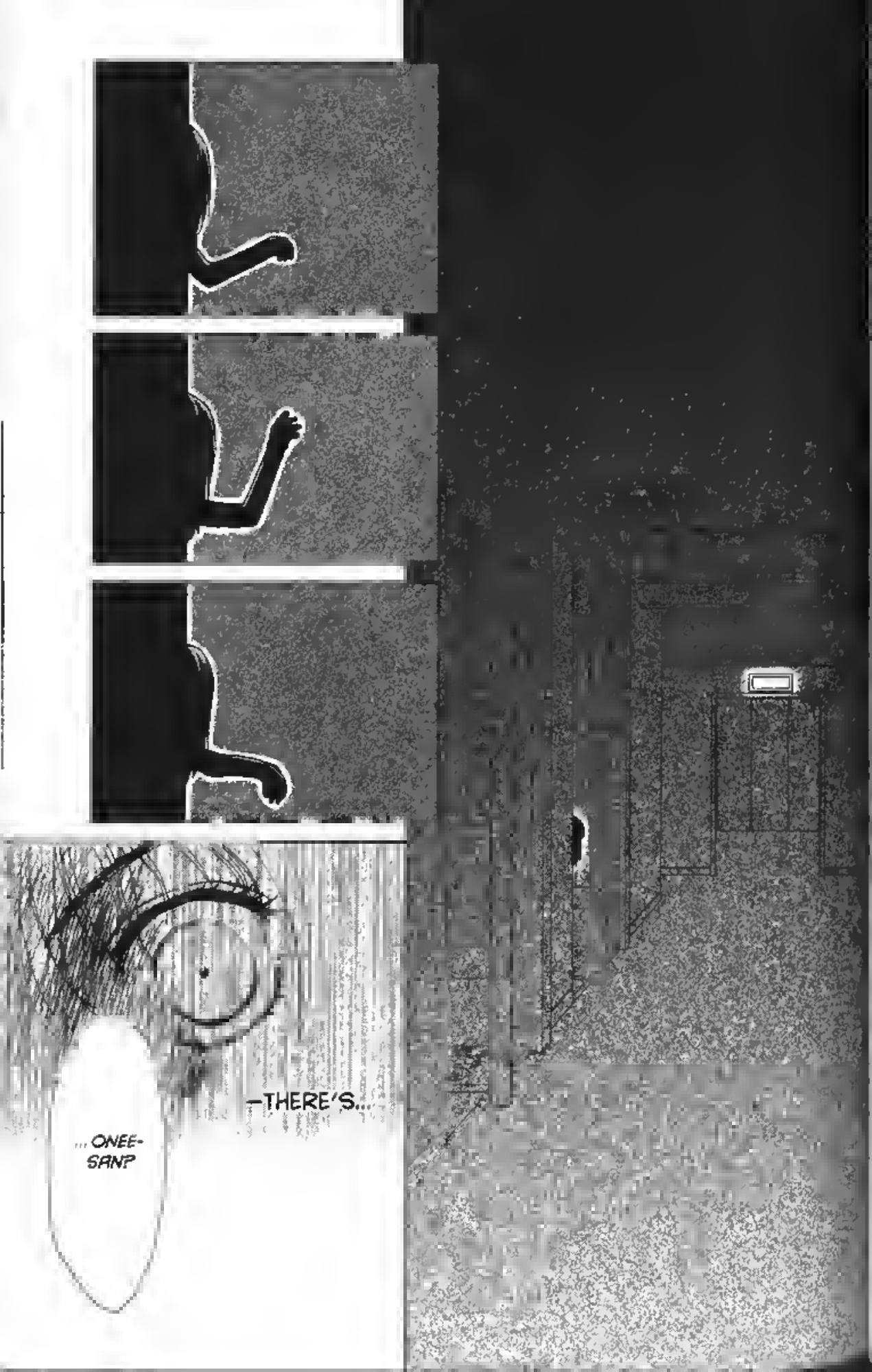
HUH?
—WHAT THE...?

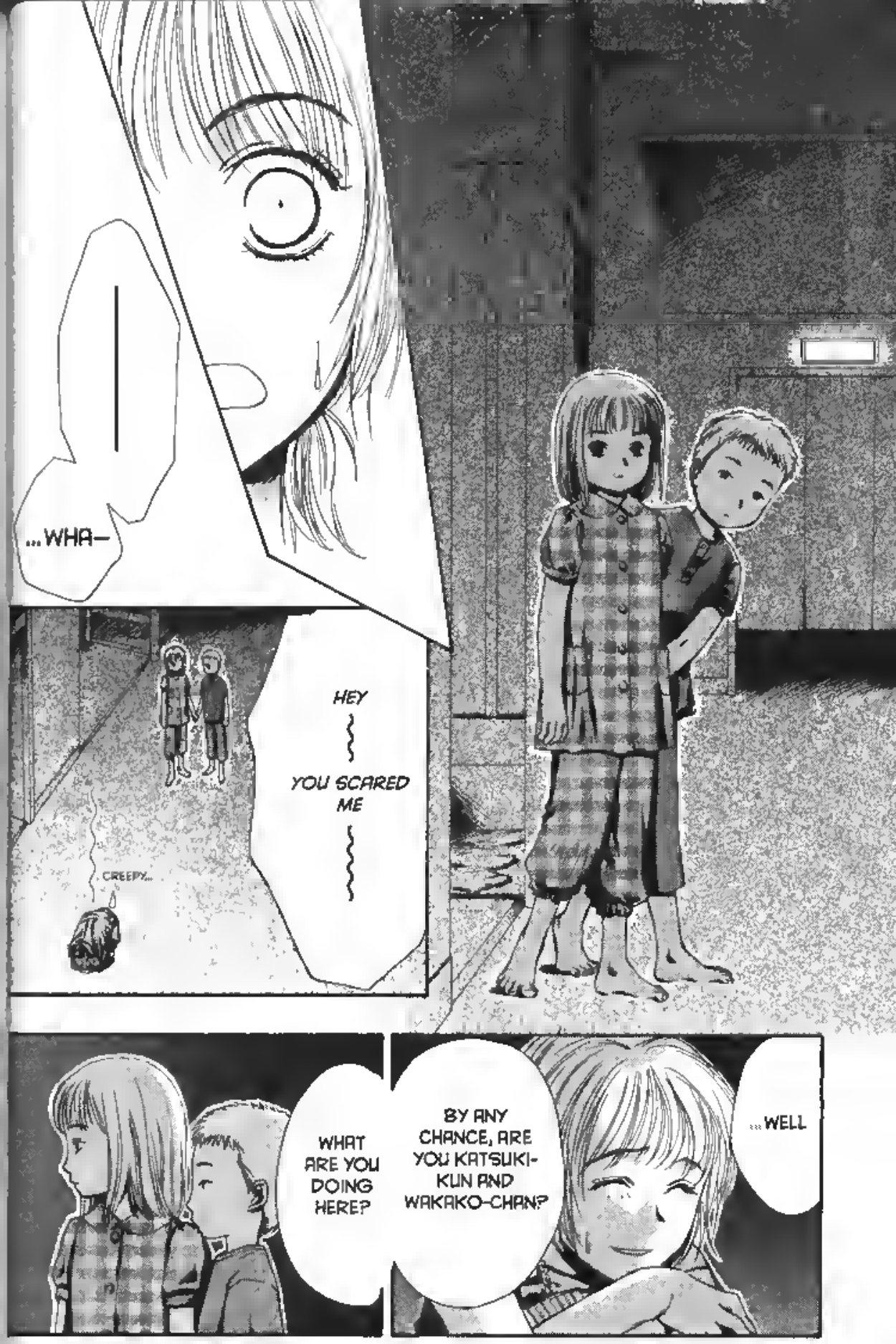
I COULD'VE SWORN SOMEONE CALLED MY NAME.
...BUT EVERYONE'S GONE.

ドキン
BA-DUM




SAN


...ONEE-SAN?
—THERE'S...


...WHA—
HEY
YOU SCARED ME
CREEPY...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
BY ANY CHANCE, ARE YOU KATSUKI-KUN AND WAKAKO-CHAN?
...WELL

?
PAT
PAT
HUH?
HOW MANY OF YOU ARE HERE?
...ONEE-SAN...
...FIVE...
BUT...
...ARE HERE?
HOW MANY OF YOU...

GIGGLE GIGGLE
クス クス
クス
PIST PIST
クス
PIST PIST
...THESE KIDS...
...FIVE...
...THAT'S IT. LOL.
THAT'S SAD.
UH—
!
LET'S GO.
UM...
HEY...HEY! WAIT UP!
WHAT ABOUT US FIVE?

PSST
PSST
PSST
YEAH, THERE ARE FIVE OF US, BUT WHY'D YOU
DON'T WORRY, ONEE-SAN!
NOW I KNOW WHAT AKIFUMI-SAN MEANT.
—WHAT'S WITH THIS UNNERVING FEELING...

MAYBE IT'S NOTHING...
...BUT SOMETHING FEELS REALLY STRANGE—
KYAAAAAAA!!

GHOST HUNT

— THE CURSED HOUSE —

FILE 2

WHERE DID IT COME FROM—
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
MAI!
MONK-SAN! DID YOU HEAR THAT SCREAM—
YEAH, I DID!
THAT SCREAM JUST NOW...
IT CAME FROM THE MAIN WING!

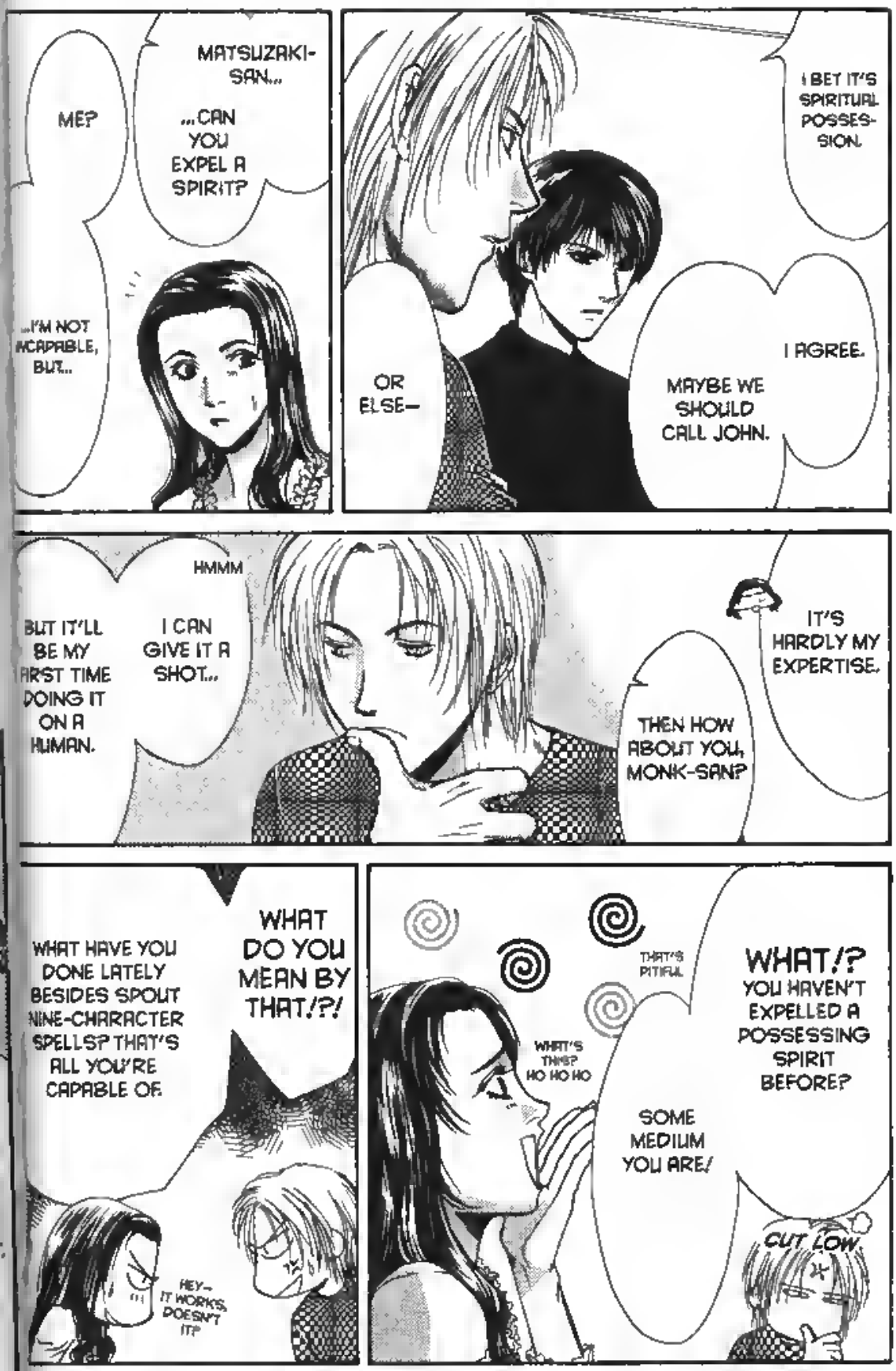
WHAT'S GOING—
!
CLATTER
GAAAAAA!

EIJIROU-SAN...?
E-
GAAA!
WH... WHAT? WHAT IS-?
LIN.
UUUURGH

AAAA
LIN-SAN!
WOOSH
GA...
...OMIGOSH
SHUUSH

CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
ALL I CAN SAY IS IT WAS ALL SO SUDDEN...
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW.
MAY I ASK WHAT THE ARGUMENT WAS ABOUT?
YES.
...THERE WAS A LITTLE ARGUMENT.
YOU MEAN HE JUST SUDDENLY STARTED ACTING VIOLENT?

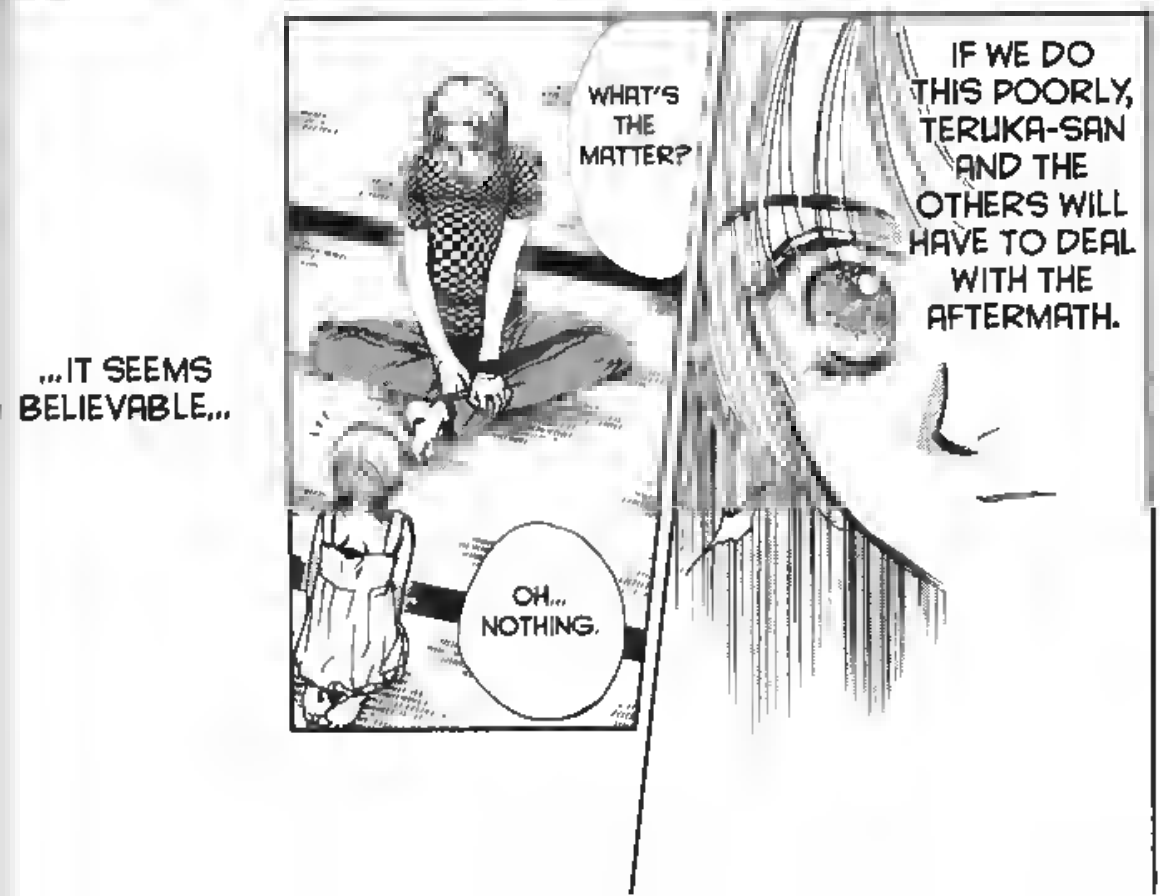
"IF IT'S NOTHING, YOU WOULDN'T LOOK SO FOUL."
"IT'S NOTHING."
"IT'S SHAMEFUL TO ACT THAT WAY IN FRONT OF GUESTS."
AND THEN...
—HE WAS SO MOODY DURING DINNER TODAY, SO I ASKED HIM WHY.
WHAT WAS HE THINKING/?
WHEN HE RETURNED, HE WAS HOLDING A KITCHEN KNIFE...
"HOLD ON! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"
"I'M NOT DONE TALKING."
THEN IT HAPPENED WHEN HE RETURNED.
AFTER PREPARING HIS USUAL MEAL, HE WENT OUT TO GET SOME FRESH AIR—
WELL... HE WAS FINE UNTIL JUST BEFORE DINNER.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHY HE WAS IN SUCH A BAD MOOD?


MATSUZAKI-SAN...
...CAN YOU EXPEL A SPIRIT?
ME?
...I'M NOT INCAPABLE, BUT...
I BET IT'S SPIRITUAL POSSES-SION.
I AGREE.
MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL JOHN.
OR ELSE—
HMMM
I CAN GIVE IT A SHOT...
BUT IT'LL BE MY FIRST TIME DOING IT ON A HUMAN.
IT'S HARDLY MY EXPERTISE.
THEN HOW ABOUT YOU, MONK-SAN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT!?!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE LATELY BESIDES SPOUT NINE-CHARACTER SPELLS? THAT'S ALL YOU'RE CAPABLE OF.
HEY— IT WORKS, DOESN'T IT?
WHAT'S THIS? HO HO HO
THAT'S PITIFUL
WHAT!? YOU HAVEN'T EXPELLED A POSSESSING SPIRIT BEFORE?
SOME MEDIUM YOU ARE!
CUT LOW.

WH-
I DON'T KNOW. THERE'S NO ONE HERE WHO'S EVER DONE IT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT?
SO THEN WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
JUST THAT WE SHOULDN'T INVOKE THESE BUDDHIST POWERS DIRECTLY ONTO A HUMAN. IT'S DANGEROUS.
I EXPELLED THE SPIRIT BUT I ALSO SMASHED THE VASE INTO A MILLION PIECES.
EEEEEEEK!
THAT COULD'VE BEEN A HUMAN!
WELL, I TRIED MY BEST.
EVEN I HAVEN'T EXPELLED A SPIRIT THAT'S POSSESSED A HUMAN.
ALTHOUGH I DID EXPEL ONE POSSESSING A VASE ONCE.
HEY!
WHACK
FIZZZSH
I'M SORRRRRRY.
OKAY...
YOU'RE SECOND LEVEL.
THAT'S TOO LOW-LEVEL, SO NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN.
THAT'S A LOT TO REMEMBER.
HEH...
HOW DOES IT GO...? LIKE THIS, THEN/ THAT...!
WHAAAAT?
BUT THEN, I TRIED TO DO IT WITH A FRIEND. I WANTED TO DEMONSTRATE IT.

FOR NOW, WILL YOU TRY TO DO IT?
...IF NOT, IT'S OKAY, BUT...
IF IT'S JUST EXPELLING, I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.
BUT I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT HE WON'T STILL BE POSSESSED.

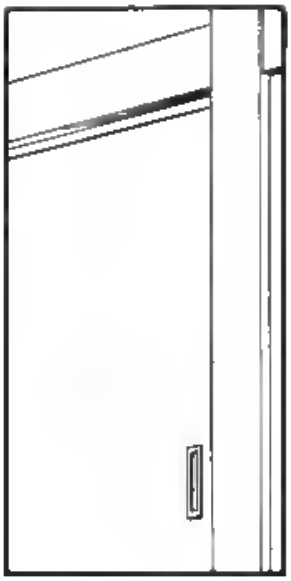
AS IT IS, EIJIROU-SAN'S ALREADY POSSESSED, SO IT CAN'T GET ANY WORSE.
ESPECIALLY SINCE THIS SPIRIT IS EXTREMELY VIOLENT.
...NO KIDDING.


IF WE DO THIS POORLY, TERUKA-SAN AND THE OTHERS WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE AFTERMATH.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
OH... NOTHING.
...IT SEEMS BELIEVABLE...

BUT...

...THE FAMILY MEMBERS THAT DIED FROM ACCIDENTS AND DISEASES...

...DID THEY ALL *REALLY* DIE FROM ACCIDENTS AND DISEASES—?



UH-HUH...
OH, NARU, IS JOHN COMING?
IT'S A LITTLE HARSH, BUT...
YEAH.
HE SAID THAT HE AND HARA-SAN ARE LEAVING ON THE FIRST FLIGHT IN THE MORNING.
HMM...
HOW WILL THAT BE?
I WANTED US TO HAVE A BACKUP.
...WE ALSO CALLED IN MASAKO.

I REVERENTLY OFFER MY SPIRIT—
CLAP CLAP!
MIYASHIRO, THE AURA ENSHRINED HERE...
THE COUNTLESS MANY WHO HAVE TAKEN ROOST HERE
BE AT EASE, BE AT CALM, HEAR MY REQUEST...
I COME BEFORE YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE—

BHAM
GI
VU
VU
GISHI
VU
.....
H-HEY...
AYAKO CAN HANDLE THIS, RIGHT?
PROBABLY.
ANYWAY, JOHN WILL TAKE OVER IN THE
"PROBABLY"
WHY NOT LIN-SAN?
BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW THE TRUE FORM OF OUR ADVERSARY.
...GEEZ, NARU.
WHY ARE YOU SO NON-CHALANT ABOUT THIS EXPELLING BUSINESS?
—MAI.
YES?

GET BACK.
HUH...

HEH
HEE HEE HEE
HEE HEE
BWAHA
HA
BWAAA
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA
GET OUT OF HERE... QUIETLY.
LIN, TAKE MAI WITH YOU.
HEE
HEH
HEH...
HEH...
HEH
HEH HEH ...

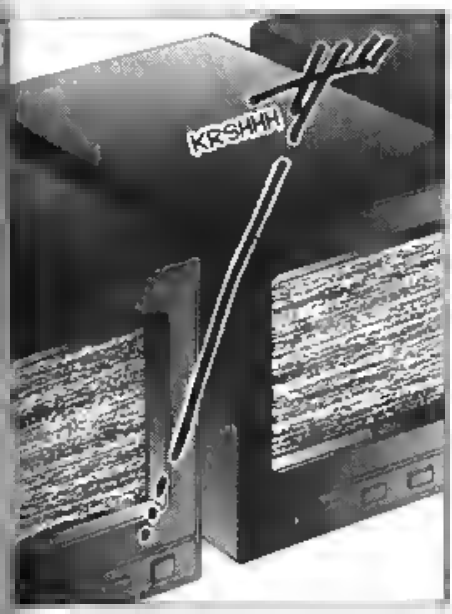
FUWA!
KYAA
CLAP!
WE ARE PROTECTED FROM THAT WHICH IS SUMMONED
BUDDHA WATCHES OVER US
WHRRRL
STOMP

WOOSH
NARU!
NARU!
DON'T DO IT!
BLINK

zuu

SUUU
AAH...
KOFF
ZURU

OH!
HOW'S EIJIROU-SAN?
...I'M FINE.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!? ARE YOU INJURED?
...WHA...
WHAT HAPPENED?



"I JUST WENT OUT TO GET SOME AIR...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS HAPPENED..."

IT WAS A SPIRIT BARRIER, WASN'T IT? SINCE IT LOOKS LIKE THE TAPE NEVER STOPPED ROLLING...

AND THE OTHER INSTRUMENTS ALL REGISTERED NEEDLE MOVEMENT.

IT WENT TO STATIC THE MOMENT THAT FOX-LIKE ENTITY APPEARED.

IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD. NOTHING WAS RECORDED.

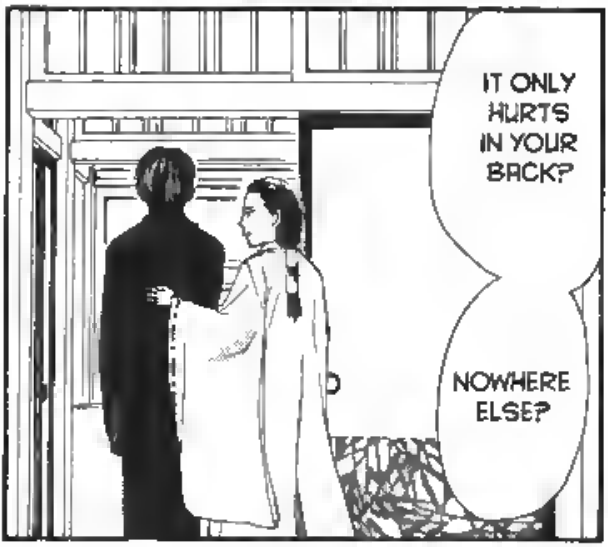
...WHAT HAPPENED TO NARU-BOU?

AND...

WE CAN EASILY SPOT AN ORDINARY FOX SPIRIT, BUT THIS IS PROBABLY NO MERE NATURAL ADVERSARY—

I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD. I'M GOING TO TAKE A NAP.
IT'S NOTHING
IS THAT WHERE YOU WERE HIT? ARE YOU OKAY?

...NO.
MY BACK JUST HURTS A LITTLE.
ARE YOU FEELING WOOZY?


IT ONLY HURTS IN YOUR BACK?
NOWHERE ELSE?

AS LONG AS I'M GOING, I'LL GO TO MY ROOM AND CHANGE MY CLOTHES.
I'LL SEE YOU TO YOUR ROOM.

...WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!
ARRGH!
SHOULD I HAVE SAID "I'LL GO" JUST NOW!? DID I JUST BLOW MY BIG CHANCE!?
OR NOT?

RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE...
SLAM
HUH?

...HOW MANY PEOPLE HAS SHE DONE THIS TO...?
I MEANT AYAKO...
YOUR CHANCE FOR WHAT?
?
THAT WAS MY CHANCE!
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN!?
GAH!
DOES SHE THINK SHE LIVED UP TO HER ROLE?
SHE COMPLETELY BUTCHERED THAT EXORCISM.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN..
WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S KIND OF SUSPICIOUS HOW SHE CALLS HERSELF A MIKO.
DOES A PROPER MIKO ASSIGNED TO A SHRINE TREMBLE UNCONTROLLABLY DURING AN EXORCISM?
EH? DO YOU MEAN...?
I'D BET ANYTHING SHE'S ONLY A MEDIUM WHO JUST WEARS THE CLOTHES OF A MIKO.
SHE'S A "SELF-CLAIMED MIKO" TO THE VERY END.

BUT IF SHE REALLY DOESN'T HAVE ANY ABILITIES IN THE FIRST PLACE, WHY DID NARU-BOU BRING HER ALONG?
I DON'T DOUBT SHE'S DONE SOME PROPER STUDYING.
AT ONE POINT, SHE WAS MIXING BUDDHIST AND SHINTO RITUALS.
IT IS/
THAT'S MUST BE IT...
WHAT'S THAT ON THE MONITOR?
HMM?
THAT'S PROBABLY ALSO...
THEY'RE STILL GOING AT IT.
...WELL, HELLO, HELLO...
YOU GO, NARU-CHAN—
WHISTLE
SO HE LIKES OLDER WOMEN.
YOU LOOK REALLY DOWN.
GEH.

LIN!
GET OVER HERE, NOW!
WOOSH
MONK-SAN?
UH
HUH?
BAM
WHY IS NARU STRANGLING AYAKO!?

KOFF
LIN TOOK HIM OUT WITH ONE BLOW...
...NARU...
KOFF KOFF
THINGS SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE.
NARU IS POSSESSED BY THAT THING.
EH...
IT WAS THAT SPIRIT.
WE ASSUMED IT HAD PASSED THROUGH NARU'S BODY INTO THE WALL AND ESCAPED, BUT WE WERE WRONG.
IT OCCUPIED NARU'S BODY.

I APOLOGIZE FOR THIS HAPPENING AGAIN!
SHOULDN'T WE TIE HIM UP LIKE WE DID WITH EIJIROU-SAN?
TIE UP NARU?
UH.
UH-HUH.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'D DO AFTER THAT.
I DON'T THINK NARU CAN BE STOPPED BY TYING HIM UP.
...WHAT DO WE DO NOW...
—SO...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
JUST WHAT I SAID.
I THINK MATSUZAKI-SAN WAS VERY LUCKY.
PERHAPS THE SPIRIT POSSESSING NARU STILL HASN'T FIGURED OUT HOW TO USE NARU'S CAPABILITIES YET.
IF IT HAD, MATSUZAKI-SAN WOULD BE DEAD RIGHT NOW.
WHEN THE ENTITY LEARNS HOW TO TRULY USE NARU, WE'LL HAVE NO MEANS TO STOP IT.
EEK/?
IT'LL DO US NO GOOD TO TRY TO TIE AND CONFINE IT.
NEITHER FOR US, NOR FOR NARU...

EH?
I'M SORRY, BUT THIS IS MY RESPONSIBILITY.
IF WE ASK WHAT IN THE WORLD YOU MEANT BY THAT, ARE YOU GOING TO BOTHER TELLING US?
HEY NOW!
I'M SAYING THAT NARU IS A FAR MORE DANGEROUS HUMAN THAN YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE.
YOU JUST HAVE TO TAKE MY WORD ON THIS.
I UNDER-STAND THAT'S NOT THE ANSWER YOU WANT TO HEAR, BUT I'M SORRY.

...SURVIVAL WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE.

...HE'S DANGEROUS"
...
...HE CAN'T SURVIVE"
...
ARE WE REALLY TALKING ABOUT NARU...?
TELL ME ONE THING...
COMPARED TO NARU?
PERHAPS.
ARE YOU GOOD AT FIGHTING?

IF WE FOUGHT TO THE DEATH, HE WOULD UTTERLY DEFEAT ME.
SO IT WOULDN'T DO US ANY GOOD TO PUT HIM IN THE STORAGE ROOM, RIGHT?
FOR NOW THEN, WE CAN ONLY TRY ANOTHER EXORCISM.
AND WE CAN BARELY AFFORD TO WAIT ANY LONGER FOR JOHN.
HMMMMM!
GOTCHA.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD TO POSSESS SOMEONE SO STRONG, COMPARED TO NORMAL PEOPLE LIKE US.
NARU'S AN EXTREMELY STRONG-WILLED PERSON WITH GREAT SELF-CONTROL.
WHY THE HELL DO YOU SAY THAT!?
I THINK IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE EVEN FOR BROWN-SAN.
—ESPECIALLY TO NARU.
THERE IS GREAT DANGER IF WE DO THIS IMPROPERLY.
IT WON'T BE EASY TO EXPEL A SPIRIT CAPABLE OF POSSESSING HIM, EVEN TEMPORARILY.
IF WE COULD ISOLATE THE POSSESSING SPIRIT IN ITS TRUE FORM, WE MIGHT FIND AN EFFECTIVE EXORCISM METHOD.
I DON'T KNOW.
SIGH...
WELL THEN, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

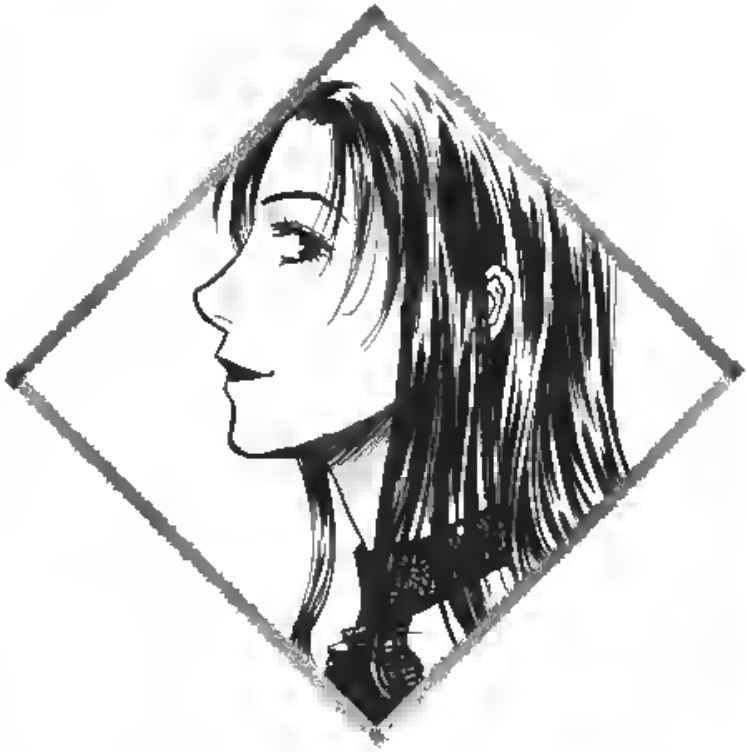
AT WHICH POINT IT'S POSSIBLE THAT EVEN I COULD EXPEL IT.
HMMM...
...IN ANY CASE, WE CAN ONLY KEEP RESEARCHING FOR NOW.
WE NEED TO KNOW THE TRUE FORM OF THE SPIRIT THAT'S POSSESSING NARU.
BUT WHAT WILL WE DO WITH HIM FOR THE TIME BEING? WHY DON'T WE JUST TIE HIM UP?
I WON'T ALLOW IT.
BUT NOW'S THE BEST TIME TO SHACKLE HIM DOWN, WHILE HE'S STILL OUT.
HE COULD BE DANGEROUS WHEN HE'S CONSCIOUS.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WE CAN TRY THEM ALL...
RIGHT NOW, HE'S COMPLETELY DEFENSELESS.
I SAVED SOME RITUALS TO TRY.

I HAVE FIVE RITUALS.
EACH ONE HAS ITS STRENGTH AND ITS WEAKNESS.
THE FIVE OF THEM SUPPLEMENT ONE ANOTHER.
IF WE TRY THEM ALL, IT SHOULD BE COMPLETELY SAFE...BUT I CAN'T PERFORM THEM ALL MYSELF.
MORE TO THE POINT, YOU'LL RUN OUT OF POWER.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WILL HAPPEN.
—ALL RIGHT/
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRY THIS ON NARU.
IT'S DANGEROUS, BUT ALL THE MORE REASON WE SHOULD DO IT.
SO, AYAKO AND MAI, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WHAT DO WE DO...

WELL, WHATEVER WE DECIDE, WE'LL BE DOING THIS WITHOUT NARU'S SUPPORT.
HE'S GOING TO BE COMPLETELY HELPLESS.
IF WE CHOSE TO ESCAPE, WE COULDN'T TAKE HIM IN THIS STATE.
SO EITHER WE TRY THIS PLAN AND GIVE IT EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT...
...OR OTHERWISE, ESCAPE AND ABANDON NARU.
NO! THERE'S NO WAY WE'RE ABANDONING HIM!

IF YOU LACK THE SELF-CONFIDENCE, GIVE UP NOW.
GRRR
.....
AYAKO?
THEN, MAI WILL STAY BEHIND.
WHAT?
THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF THAT.
WON'T YOU TELL US MORE?
SO WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?
LIKE YOU HAVE SELF-CONFIDENCE?
WELL, AS LONG AS IT CAN'T USE NARU-BOU, THE SPIRIT CAN'T HURT US.
A MODEST ATTITUDE AND A GENTLE PERSONALITY.

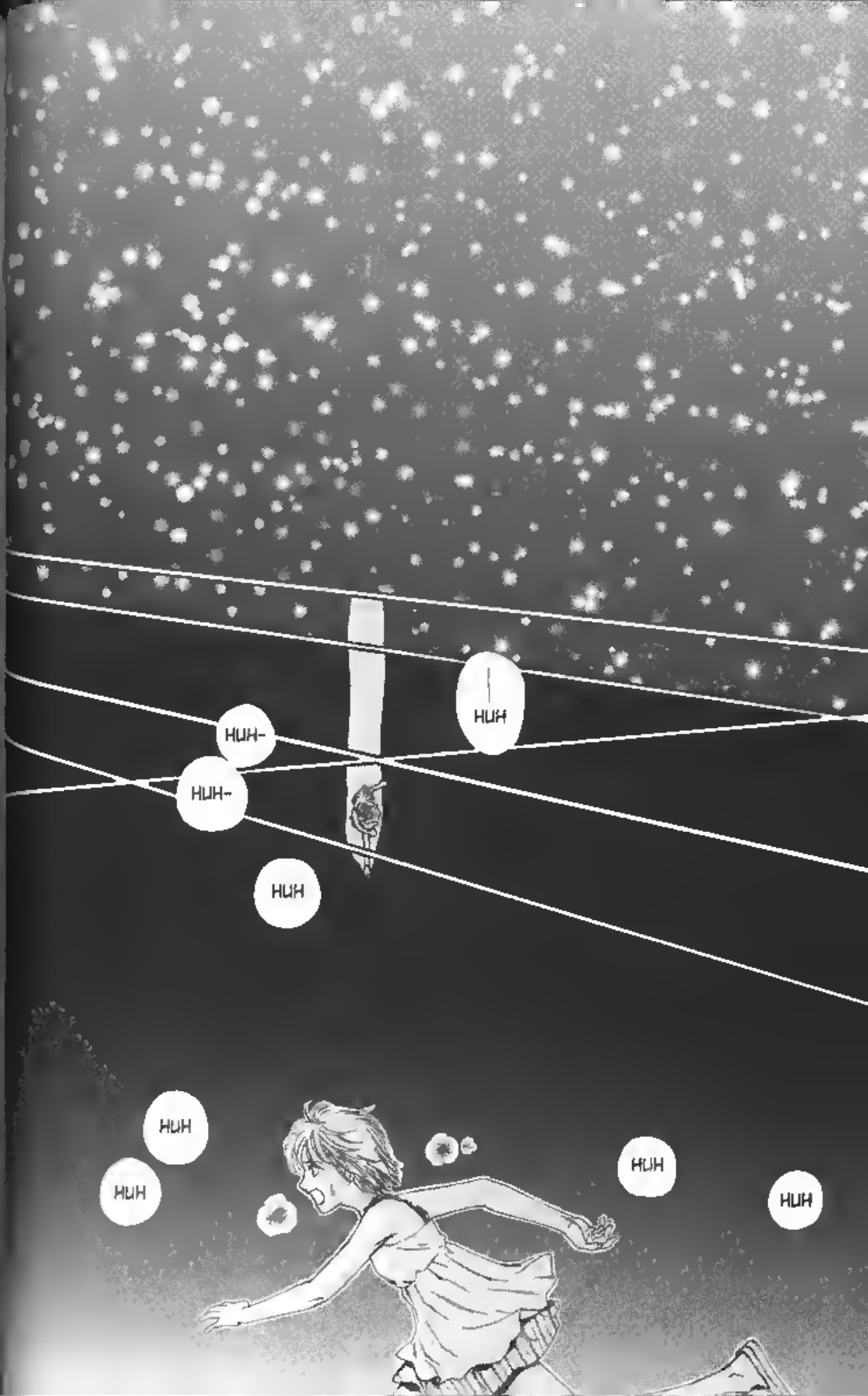
HAHAAAA!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!
AM I WRONG?
WE HAVE TO SAVE THEM.
WE'RE NOT THE TYPE OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD ABANDON NARU.
WE HAVE TO SAVE THEM.
WHAHA.
—THAT'S RIGHT.
WE HAVE TO SAVE THEM.
NARU *AND* THE YOSHIMI FAMILY.



GHOST HUNT

— THE CURSED HOUSE —

FILE 3


HUH
HUH-
HUH-
HUH
HUH
HUH
HUH
HUH
HUH

HOW DID IT END UP LIKE THIS?
...WHAT SHOULD I DO?
...WHAT SHOULD I DO?
...WHAT SHOULD I DO?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

RUSTLE

I MURDERED HIM.
AKIFUMI-SAN...!
PSH
I WOULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING.
WHEN I CAME HERE, HE WAS HERE.
I THOUGHT YOU BETRAYED ME, MAI.
I HAD TO.
WHY...

I DID THIS AND EVEN RAN AWAY WITH YOU... WHY DON'T YOU BELIEVE ME?
THIS CAN'T BE!
NATURALLY, I THOUGHT YOU CHOSE HIM, MAI.
BUT HE HAS MONEY AND PRESTIGE.
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW ABOUT THIS PLACE.
WHY DID HE COME HERE?
SOMEONE SECRETLY SWAPPED MY LETTER.
I WAS WAITING AT A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PLACE.

...WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
WE CAN'T RUN AWAY AFTER KILLING SOMEONE.
IF WE TURN OURSELVES IN THEY'LL KILL US ANYWAY.
SHOULD WE KILL OUR-SELVES?
...LET'S DO IT TOGETHER

HUH
HUH
HUH
HUH

I CAN SEE...
...PEOPLE CHASING US

NARU...

HUH
HUH

WHY ISN'T THE SEA HERE? THE ONE THAT WAS HERE WHEN WE CAME?
"THAT'S NOT THE SEA..."
...WHY AM I ASKING THAT?
...A SHRINE...?
WHY AM I THINKING ABOUT THAT NOW?
I CAN'T GO ANY-MORE.
MAI.
I... CAN'T RUN ANY-MORE...
...IT'S NO USE...

MONK-SAN...?
...DO WE STOP HERE?
WE'RE SURROUNDED.
WE'RE PREPARED FOR THIS.
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO US?
PREPARED—?

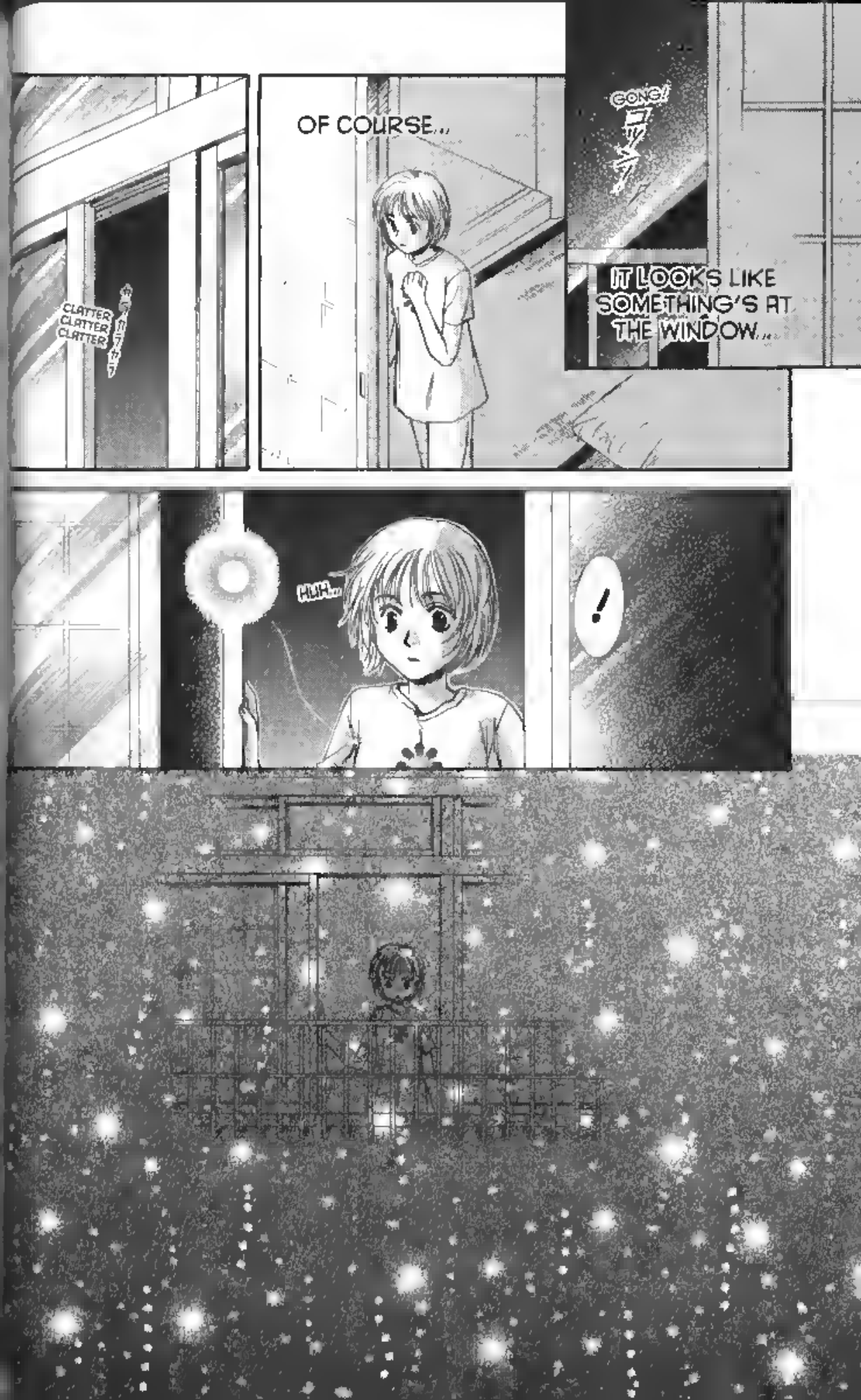
RAHH
!!
!

EIJIROU-SAN...!?
HOW COME...
WHY IS THIS...
...THEY...

THEY MUST BE CURSED UNTIL THE END OF DAYS...!

!!
.....
zzz...

EEEEK!
THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A DREAM...!
WHOA...!
SIGH...
FLAIL FLAIL
...WAS THAT?
—WHAT...
GONG
I'M SURE I CLOSED IT BEFORE I WENT TO SLEEP, BUT...
THE SLIDING DOOR IS OPEN.


CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER
OF COURSE...
GONG!
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING'S AT THE WINDOW...
Hihh...
!

...LOOK LIKE THEY'RE RISING UP FROM BELOW...
OH, THAT VOICE...
MAYBE I'M STILL ASLEEP AND THIS IS PART OF THE DREAM...
WHY DO THESE WHITE LIGHTS...
—NARU...!

COME HERE
OF COURSE...
...I MUST STILL BE DREAMING.

HMM.
...SOMETHING TERRIBLE JUST HAPPENED.
...S-

THAT'S RIGHT.
...WAS IT SCARY?
Y-YEAH! NOT LIKE THIS!

DREAMING?
WERE YOU DREAMING?
-OH... YOU MEAN MY EARLIER DREAM, PERHAPS?

IT'S ALL RIGHT.
YOU... GUIDED...?
I ONLY GUIDED YOU INTO THE DREAM.
A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY.
OH!
BY ANY CHANCE, DID YOU DREAM THE SAME THING TOO, NARU?

WOOSH
WOW...
...WHAT?
THIS IS WHAT THE VIEW IS LIKE FROM BELOW.

WHERE DOES IT GO...
ONE COULD USE IT TO GET DOWN HERE.
THERE'S A WALKWAY OVER THERE... I THINK.
IT LEADS ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP.
A GROTTO...?
LET'S CHECK IT OUT.
OH, OKAY.

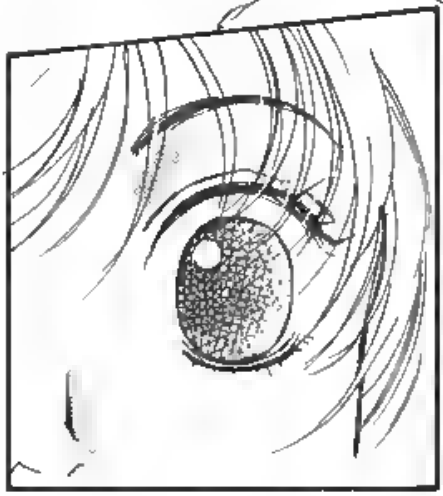
ARE THESE ALL SPIRITS?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE SPIRITS SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SUMMONED HERE.

AH! LOOK OVER THERE.
THOSE SPIRITS ARE COMING FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE SEA.
MAYBE THIS IS THAT CAVE AKIFUMI-SAN TOLD US ABOUT.

PROBABLY— LIVES LOST IN THE SEA NEAR HERE.
SINCE THIS IS WHERE THEIR SOULS WERE APPARENTLY SUMMONED.
HEY...
THESE SPIRITS... WHAT ARE THEY?

ザバーン!

SOH
HMMM...



HUH?
...A FISH!?

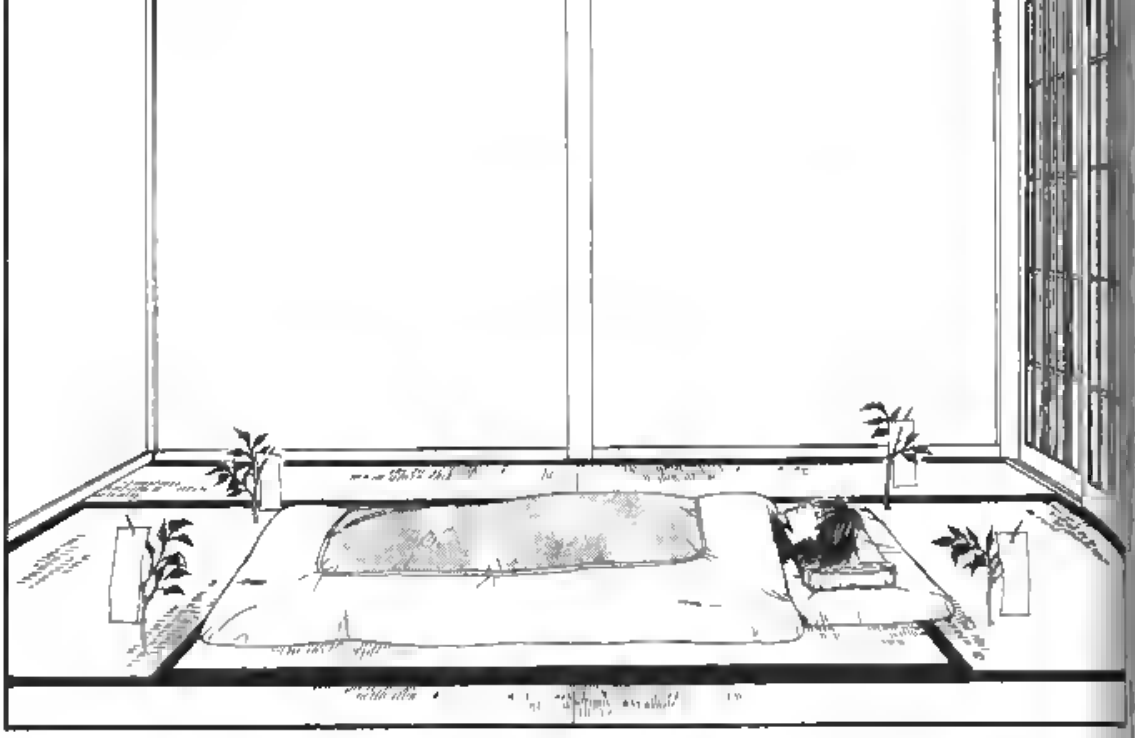
HEY, LOOK OVER THERE.
THERE'S A SMALL HOKORA SHRINE.
THAT'S WHERE THE SOULS ARE TRAVELING TO—
I GUESS.
INDEED...
IT LOOKED LIKE IT JUST WARPED.
THAT WAS SO... CREEPY...
HUH?

EVEN I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND.
THIS ISN'T AN EVIL PLACE, BUT IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A GOOD PLACE EITHER.
THAT'S IT.
IT HAS THE AMBIENCE OF SACRED GROUND.
SACRED GROUND

...NARU
...ARE WE GOING TO BE OKAY?
HN?
YEAH.
I'M SORRY... FOR MAKING YOU WORRY.
OH NO, I'M FINE. SO EVERY-THING'S ALL RIGHT...
-YES...

...SO EVERY-
THING'S ALL
RIGHT...
I'M FINE...

—UNBELIEVABLE...
SHIBUYA-SAN TRIED TO DO SOMETHING SO INTENSE...
HE'S SLEEPING.
LIN-SAN PERFORMED A SPELL ON HIM TO PREVENT HIM FROM WAKING.
...WHAT'S NARU DOING RIGHT NOW?
SLIDE
BUT PLEASE DON'T ENTER THE CORDONED-OFF ROOM.
IF YOU JUST WANT TO SEE HIS FACE.
CAN WE SEE HIM?



...HEY.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF SPIRIT POSSESSED HIM?

...I HAVEN'T SEEN THIS OFTEN.
THIS IS JUST A FEELING, BUT THE POSSESSING SPIRIT...
...SEEMS TO BE WHAT'S CALLED AN "EMPTY SPIRIT"...
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
ONE THAT IS COLORLESS... TRANSPARENT... IT DOESN'T EVEN EXHIBIT ANY KIND OF EMOTION.
DESPITE THIS, IT POSSESSES A STRONG PRESENCE—
SOMETHING THAT MAY HINDER OUR WORK IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE CAN'T GRASP THE SPIRIT'S TRUE FORM.
.....
MAY I CLOSE THIS?
NOD
PUT

SOMETIMES SHE IRRITATES ME...

...BUT AT TIMES LIKE THESE, I SYMPATHIZE WITH HER.

...WAS THERE ANY ACTIVITY LAST NIGHT?

WELL THEN, LIN-SAN, AND THE REST OF YOU...

LIH-OH

OF COURSE!

...AND THE ROOM OVER-LOOKING THE COVE?

DID WE GET FOOTAGE OF THE MAIN WING...

FORGET IT.

WELL, THEN, FIRST I'LL CHANGE MY CLOTHES.

TO ALL BLACK.

STOP MEDDLING

FORM AND ETIQUETTE ARE IMPORTANT

WE CAN CHANNEL HIM.

LET'S AT LEAST WAIT TILL WE GET A RESPONSE OUT OF NARU

LIH, NO NEED TO!

OH, REALLY?

BIIP BIIP

OH!
THE FIRST-FLOOR CORRIDOR OF THE MAIN WING.
...AND WHAT'S THIS?
HAZUKI-CHAN'S ROOM...
THE SAME THING HAPPENED IN THE CORRIDOR.
...THEY VANISHED...
SWITCHING TO THE FEED OF THE ROOM OVERLOOKING THE COVE.

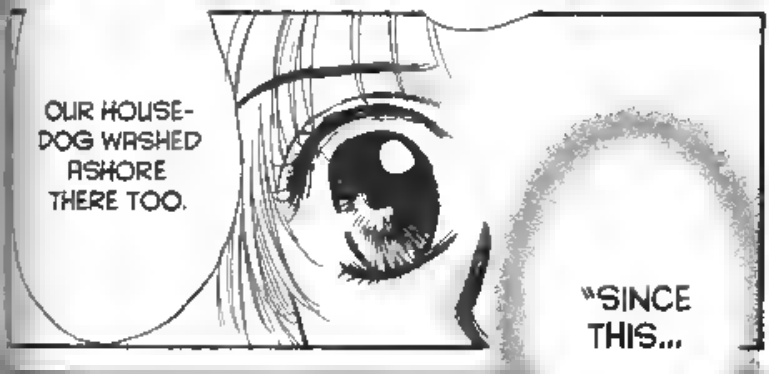
ARE THEY APPARI-TIONS?
IT'S LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE RISING FROM BELOW.
LIGHTS?
...WHAT ARE THEY?
RISING FROM BELOW...
EXCEPT THE TEMPERATURE DROPPED FIVE DEGREES.
KNOCK KNOCK
THE OTHER SENSORS ARE WITHIN NORMAL LEVELS.
NO AUDIO. NO VIBRATIONS EITHER.
HOW'S THE AUDIO?

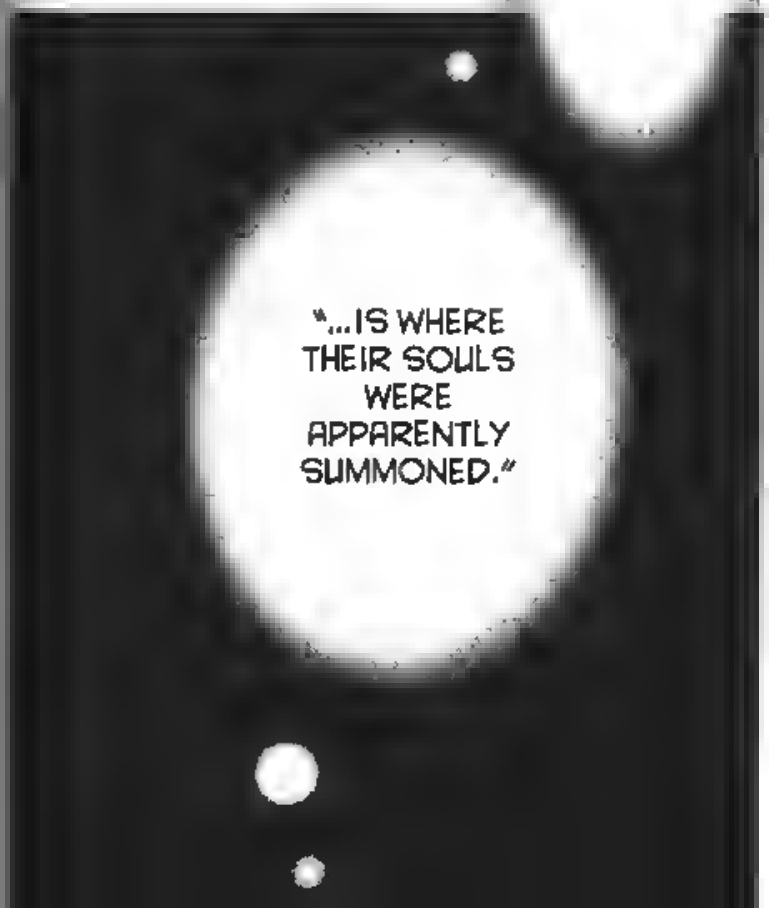
AKIFUMI-SAN.
I BROUGHT YOU SOME COFFEE.
OH, SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.
ABOUT THAT CAVE BELOW US... IS THERE A WALK-WAY TO THE SIDE PERHAPS? ONE THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CARVED INTO THE CLIFF?
UM...
YES?
IS THERE A SMALL HOKORA SHRINE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CAVE, AFTER A BEND IN THE PASSAGEWAY?
WOW...! MAYBE THIS IS...
HAVE YOU SEEN IT?
THEY REMIND ME OF THE STONE STEPS ON THE SIDE OF THE RESTAURANT.

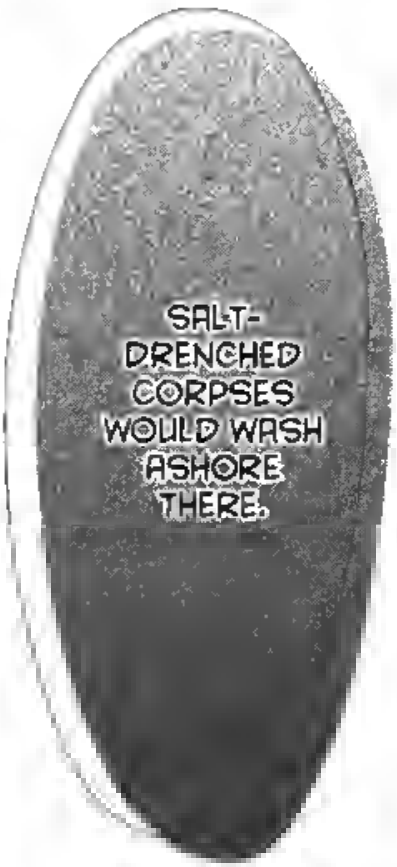
I...MIGHT HAVE DONE SOMETHING.
HUH?
EHEEHEE
WHAT DID YOU DO, LITTLE GIRL?
I WOULDN'T HAVE ALLOWED IT. THOSE STONE STEPS ARE DANGEROUS.
IMPOSSIBLE! DID YOU GO DOWN THERE?
NIIEEE!
I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY! BUT IT'S TRUE.
WHAT THE HELL!?
FISH SPIRITS?
LOOKING FOR A LIFEBOAT, OR SOMETHING.
IF THEY'RE "FISH," MAYBE THEY'RE STILL ALIVE.
RIGHT?
—AND THEN...
...HUMANS SOULS WERE BEING SUMMONED FROM THE SEA INTO THE CAVE.
...THEY TURNED INTO SPIRITS THAT LOOKED LIKE FISH.

PEOPLE WHO DIED IN THE NEARBY SEA WOULD FLOAT INTO THAT CAVE.
...NOT JUST PEOPLE, BUT LARGE OBJECTS TOO.
INCLUDING THAT HOKORA SHRINE.

THERE REALLY IS A CAVE AS YOU DESCRIBED.


"SINCE THIS...
OUR HOUSE-DOG WASHED ASHORE THERE TOO.


"...IS WHERE THEIR SOULS WERE APPARENTLY SUMMONED."

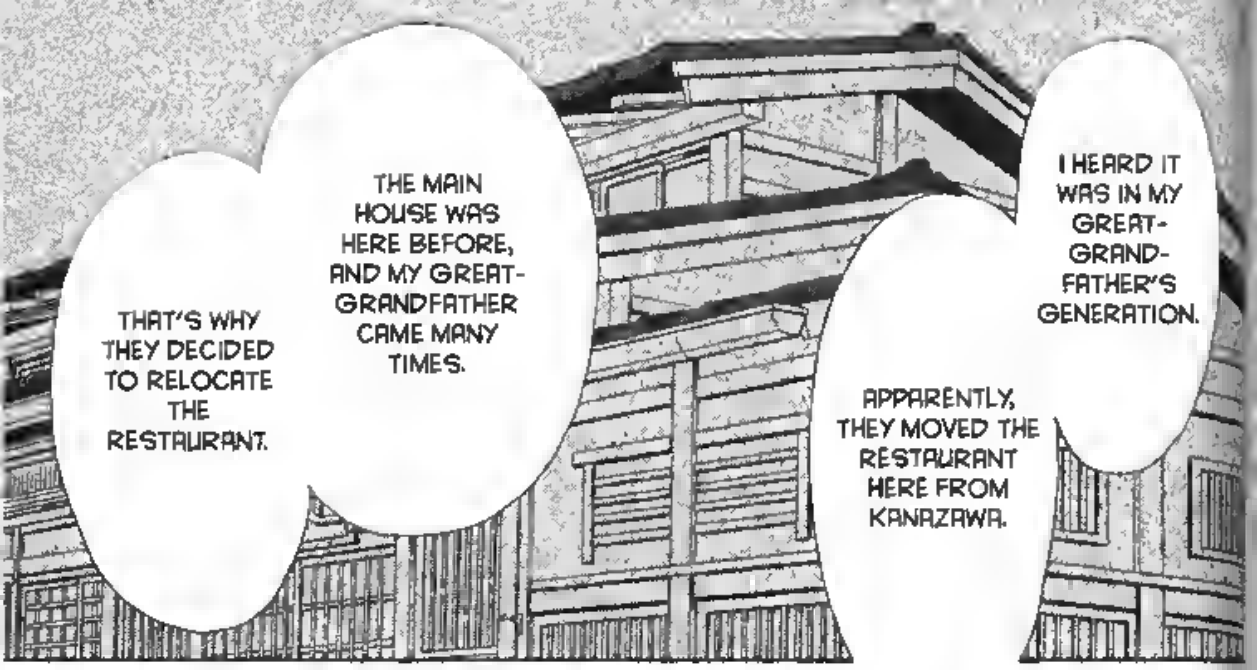

SALT-DRENCHED CORPSES WOULD WASH ASHORE THERE.

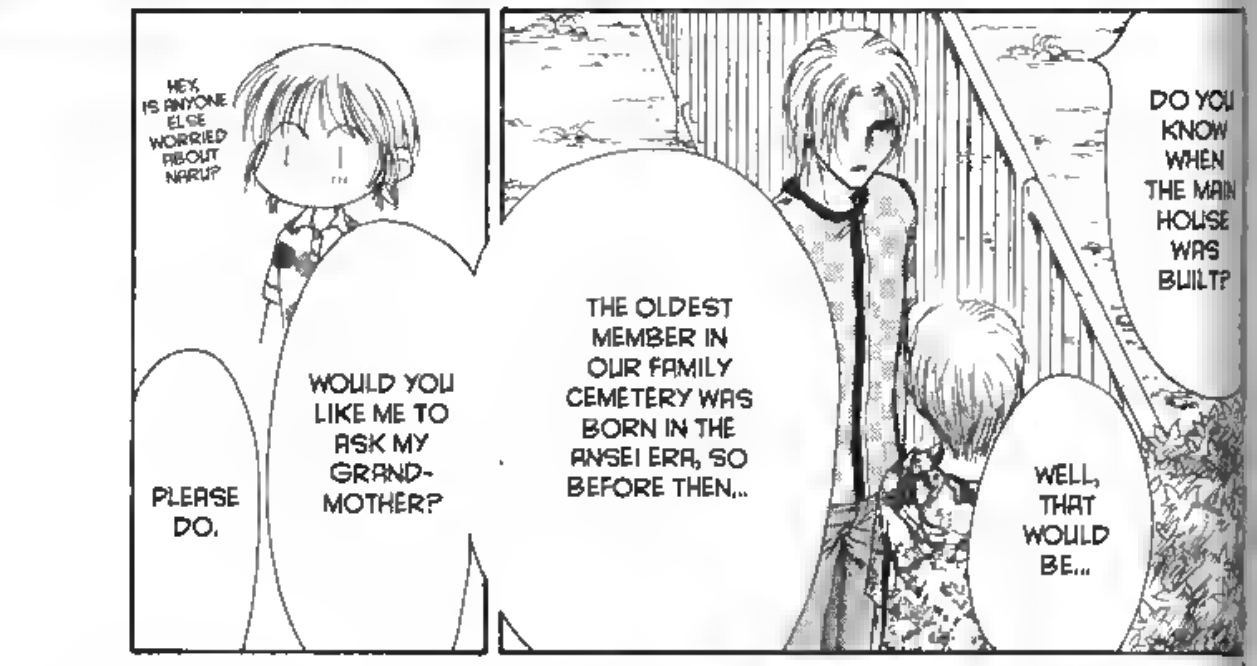
GHOST HUNT

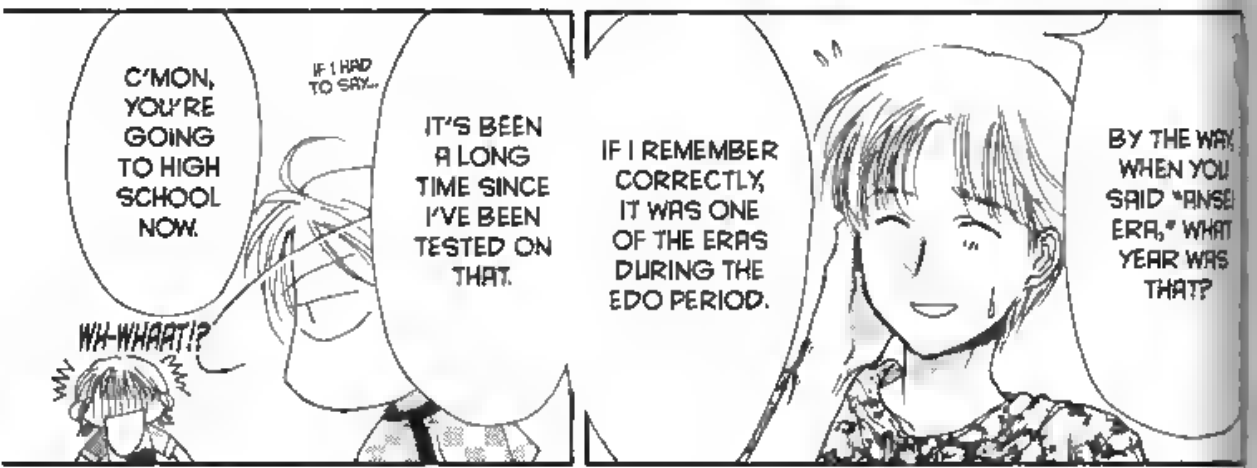
— THE CURSED HOUSE —

FILE 4

THOSE MUST BE THE STONE STEPS YOU SAW IN YOUR DREAM, MAI.
—I SEE.
YES.
CLINK
DO YOU KNOW WHEN THIS RESTAURANT WAS BUILT?
THEY'VE MOSTLY FALLEN APART, SO WE CAN'T USE THEM NOW.
I BELIEVE THOSE ARE EXTREMELY OLD,
BUILT LONG BEFORE THE RESTAURANT WAS HERE.


I HEARD IT WAS IN MY GREAT-GRAND-FATHER'S GENERATION.
APPARENTLY, THEY MOVED THE RESTAURANT HERE FROM KANAZAWA.
THE MAIN HOUSE WAS HERE BEFORE, AND MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER CAME MANY TIMES.
THAT'S WHY THEY DECIDED TO RELOCATE THE RESTAURANT.


HEY, IS ANYONE ELSE WORRIED ABOUT NARU?
PLEASE DO.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO ASK MY GRAND-MOTHER?
THE OLDEST MEMBER IN OUR FAMILY CEMETERY WAS BORN IN THE ANSEI ERA, SO BEFORE THEN,..
WELL, THAT WOULD BE...
DO YOU KNOW WHEN THE MAIN HOUSE WAS BUILT?


C'MON, YOU'RE GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL NOW.
WH-WHAAT!?
IF I HAD TO SAY...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE BEEN TESTED ON THAT.
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, IT WAS ONE OF THE ERAS DURING THE EDO PERIOD.
BY THE WAY, WHEN YOU SAID "ANSEI ERA," WHAT YEAR WAS THAT?

HOW ABOUT MASAKO? AREN'T YOU IN SCHOOL FOR NOW?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FOR NOW"?
MY CLASS IS STILL DISCUSSING GENJI TOO.
M-MY SCHOOL IS STILL ON THE GENJI AND HEIKE WAR!
MASAKO, YOU'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL!?
HUH?
IT'S A SPECIAL HIGH SCHOOL FAMOUS FOR CELEBRITIES.
NO WAY! HOW COOL!
SO, THAT MEANS YOU'RE BUSY ALL THE TIME? BUT YOU KEEP COMING TO HELP US.
AH! BY THE WAY, DO YOU HAVE CELEBRITY FRIENDS?
I AM BUSY...
...BUT I'M STILL IN SUPPLEMENTARY LESSONS...
I TAKE SUPPLEMENTARY LESSONS TO COMPENSATE FOR MY ATTENDANCE RECORD.
GLARE

UN-UN-UN-UN-UNBELIEVABLE/
BLINK
THIS IS WHAT MAI WAS THINKING
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'D GO TO CLASS IN A KIMONO?
A SCHOOL UNIFORM, OF COURSE.
HEY, MASAKO, WHAT DO YOU WEAR TO SCHOOL?
SO YOU FLEW HERE TO GET A CHANCE TO SEE NARU?
IF YOU GO OVER THERE, TOWARD THE TEAROOM—
YOU CAN SEE THE FRONT OF THE CAPE.
IS IT POSSIBLE TO SEE THE COVE FROM HERE?
YOU SHOULD TRY TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE COMMON SENSE
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
HEY, SHOULD WE KEEPING GOING?
GRRRRRRR!
WHAT'S IS IT NOW?

SHALL WE GO A LITTLE FARTHER?
IT'S EXACTLY LIKE MY DREAM...
WHOA...
THERE ARE NO FENCES FROM HERE ON OUT, SO PLEASE WATCH YOURSELF.
KLIKK
WOW...

OH, MINOR DETAIL.
I'M NOT THE MAIN FAMILY HEIR.
"YOUNG MASTER" ...?
WHAT ARE THOSE?
HEY, YOUNG MASTER.
THERE'S NO WAY TO SEE WHAT'S ON THIS CLIFF FROM BELOW.
HUH...
HMMM.
THEY LOOK LIKE GRAVESTONES. THEY'VE PROBABLY BEEN UNTOUCHED SINCE THEY WERE PLACED THERE.
I DON'T KNOW. EVEN MY GRANDMOTHER DOESN'T KNOW.
WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE?
YOSHIMI-SAN

THAT'S OKOBU AND MEKOBU.
OKOBU IS THE LARGE ONE, AND MEKOBU IS THE SMALL ONE.
IS THAT A SACRED ROPE TYING THEM TOGETHER?
YES.
BUT I DON'T THINK IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH ANY SHINTO RITUALS.
WHAT, WHAT?
BECAUSE THE LOCAL FISHERMEN TIE IT THERE TO MARK THE NEW YEAR.
IT'S SAID THAT A MAN AND WOMAN LEAPT INTO THE SEA FROM HERE.
HUH?
IT'S A LOCAL LEGEND.
ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A PRINCESS WHO LIVED ON THIS LAND.

THE PRINCESS HAD A LOVER AMONG THE FISHERMEN LIVING HERE.
HOWEVER, ANOTHER MAN APPEARED BEFORE THE ILLICIT ROMANCE.
THIS MAN WAS A SON OF A LOCAL NOBLE FAMILY WHO TRIED TO FORCE THE PRINCESS TO MARRY HIM.
THE PRINCESS DISLIKED THE NOBLE SON AND SET OUT TO ELOPE WITH HER LOVER.
HOWEVER, THE NOBLE SON SECRETLY REPLACED A MESSAGE THE COUPLE HAD WRITTEN, AND THE COUPLE FAILED TO MEET AS PLANNED.
WHILE THE PRINCESS SEARCHED FOR HER LOVER IN THE CONFUSION, THE LOVER KILLED THE NOBLE SON.
I THINK IT WAS BECAUSE THE LOVER THOUGHT HE WAS BETRAYED WHEN THE NOBLE SON CAME TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT INSTEAD OF THE PRINCESS.
I–
I KNOW THIS STORY FROM SOMEWHERE...

PRINCESS
LOVE
LOVE LOVE
MURDER!
NOBLEMAN
FISHERMAN
WAS I DREAMING OF THIS LEGEND!?
...IN OTHER WORDS
GYAAA! IT MUST BE!

THE STORY GOES THAT THE LOVER WAS TRANSFORMED INTO OKOBU AND THE PRINCESS INTO MEKOBU.
THE GODS TOOK PITY ON THEM AND ENSURED THAT THEY WOULD NEVER BE APART AGAIN.
NO, NO, IT'S NOTHING.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
ARGH... I HAD...

...THE MOST EMBARRASSING DREAM...
...OH?

WHEN I CAME HERE, HE WAS HERE. I THOUGHT YOU BETRAYED ME, MAI.
THE COUPLE REALIZED THEIR MISUNDERSTANDING, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.
I WOULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING.
SO THEY LEAPT OFF THIS CLIFF INTO THE SEA BELOW.
—AAAAA!

WHAT IS THAT BUILDING OVER THERE?
THAT'S A SHRINE. THERE ARE NO PRIESTS ANYMORE, IT'S JUST A SMALL ONE.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IT?
WOW! WHAT AN EXQUISITE SHRINE.
BUT IT COULD USE A PROPER CLEANING.
EXQUISITE, YOU SAY? MY FAMILY'S BEEN LOOKING AFTER IT...
...CLEANING IT FOR GENERATIONS.
ISN'T IT RUN-DOWN?
YOUNG MASTER, YOUNG MASTER.
WHAT ARE THOSE?

I THINK "TOHACHI" IS A PUN.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT ANOTHER NAME IS THE SANROKU — OR "3-6" MOUNDS.
THAT IS, "TOHACHI" AS IN THE "18" MOUNDS.
A PUN?
HUH?
TOHACHI MOUNDS?
THOSE ARE THE TOHACHI MOUNDS.
3×6 = 18
"SAN TIMES ROKU EQUALS JUUHACHI," RIGHT?
OH.
NOW, WHY THEY'RE CALLED THE SANROKU MOUNDS, NOBODY REALLY KNOWS.
BUT THERE ARE THREE OF THEM HERE, ARE THERE NOT?
AND THERE ARE ONLY FIVE AT THAT OTHER PLACE.
I SEE...
A LOST MOUND, HUH?
MY GRANDMOTHER SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
EXACTLY RIGHT. SO I THINK THERE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE SIX ON THAT CAPE, BUT ONE WAS LOST.

I'LL BET WHEN THAT HAPPENED, ONE OF THE SIX WASN'T MOVED PROPERLY AND IT BROKE APART.
BUT THEY HAD TO BE MOVED WHEN THE RESTAURANT WAS BUILT.
THOSE MOUNDS ARE FOX GRAVES.
DO YOU THINK THIS ONE ODDITY COULD HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH OUR YOSHIMI FAMILY CASE?
BUT A MOUND, IN THIS CASE, IS A GRAVE.
FLKK
THAT'S IT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK!
THAT CURSE THEN...
I REALIZED THE SAME THING ALREADY.
HMPH
OLD FOGEY TERM
WHEN NARU'S NOT HERE, I'M THE SHARPEST TOOL IN THE SHED!
...WHAT WE'RE CALLING A FOX HERE IS NOT REALLY A FOX...
IT DAWNED ON ME AS WE WERE WALKING EARLIER.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MASAKO?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THERE ARE MANY INSTANCES WHERE THE SPIRITS DECEIVE HUMAN EYES BY APPEARING IN THE FORM OF BEASTS.
I COULDN'T FEEL ANY ANIMAL SPIRITS.
AT THE RESTAURANT OR THE MOUNDS.

MY GUESS IS THAT THEY ARE A KIND OF FLOATING SPIRIT.
I CAN FEEL THE PRESENCE OF MANY SPIRITS. BUT I CANNOT TELL WHAT THEY ARE.
ALSO...

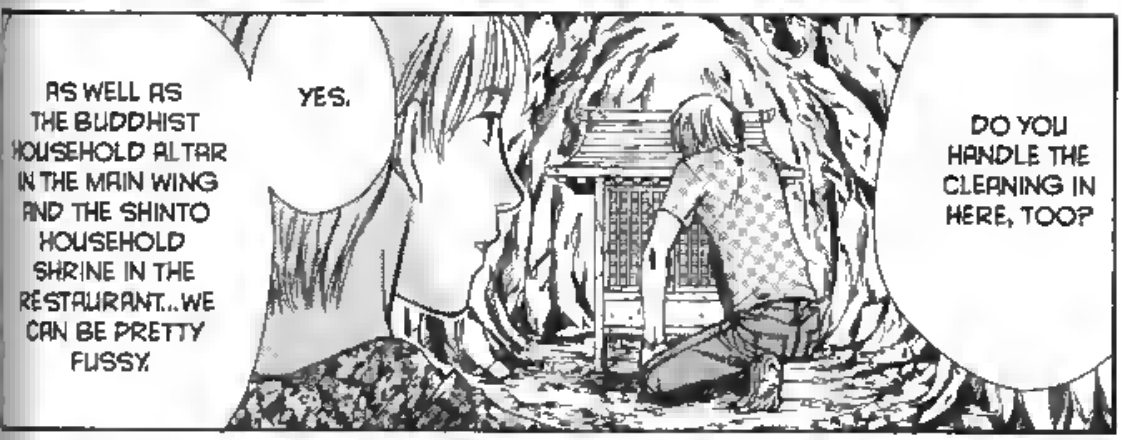
I DON'T SENSE ANYTHING GOOD HERE, BUT I DON'T SENSE ANYTHING EVIL EITHER.
THIS IS A STRANGE PLACE.
EH?
MASAKO...
SO FOR ONCE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THESE SPIRITS ARE?
OH MY BUDDHA!

THOSE WORDS SOUND...
I FELT AN ODD POWER INSIDE THE HOUSE...
...BUT IT FELT LIKE A SWIRL OF SOMETHING EXTREMELY EVIL AND SOMETHING EXTREMELY GOOD.
I REMEMBER FEELING THAT ONCE BEFORE...
WAS IT...
...A SACRED GROUND?
THAT'S RIGHT.
...YES...
THIS FEELING IS VERY SIMILAR.
BEFORE, WHEN I WAS IN AMERICA, I WAS ON A SACRED NATIVE AMERICAN GROUND.
...WHEN I VISITED AN EXORCISM CONFERENCE AT ASPR'S INVITATION.
JUST ONCE...
MASAKO, YOU'VE BEEN TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES?
WHOA...
ASPR?

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.
AT THAT TIME, I WAS IN AN AREA THAT WAS REFERRED TO AS A SACRED NATIVE AMERICAN GROUND.
IT WAS A HOLY PLACE PROTECTED BY THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD.
IT WAS ALSO THE EPICENTER OF A CURSE THAT BRINGS CALAMITY DOWN UPON DISHONORED PEOPLE.
MANY SPIRITS WERE FLOATING ABOUT THERE.
I'M FEELING SENSATIONS THAT ARE STRONGLY REMINISCENT OF THAT PLACE.
A PLACE WHERE SPIRITS AND SOULS GATHER...
...OF COURSE, WE HAVEN'T EVEN LOOKED INSIDE THAT CAVE YET.

WE'LL USE THIS PATH THIS TIME.
THERE'S ANOTHER PATH TO THE CAVE FROM THE COAST.
SHE SOUNDS SO CERTAIN.
SHUT UP!
WAAA!
MAN, IT'S HARD TO WALK DOWN HERE!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
IT'S JUST LIKE MY DREAM.
...BUT I CAN SEE THE HOKORA SHRINE CLEARLY NOW...
IT'S GONNA BE A LITTLE DARK, SO PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP.

DO YOU FEEL SOME-THING, MASAKO?
THE SAME FEELING AS ON THAT MOUNTAIN...
...AND ON THE SACRED GROUND I VISITED IN AMERICA.
EVEN AS WE SPEAK, SPIRITS ARE FLOWING IN HERE.


DO YOU HANDLE THE CLEANING IN HERE, TOO?
YES.
AS WELL AS THE BUDDHIST HOUSEHOLD ALTAR IN THE MAIN WING AND THE SHINTO HOUSEHOLD SHRINE IN THE RESTAURANT...WE CAN BE PRETTY FUSSY.

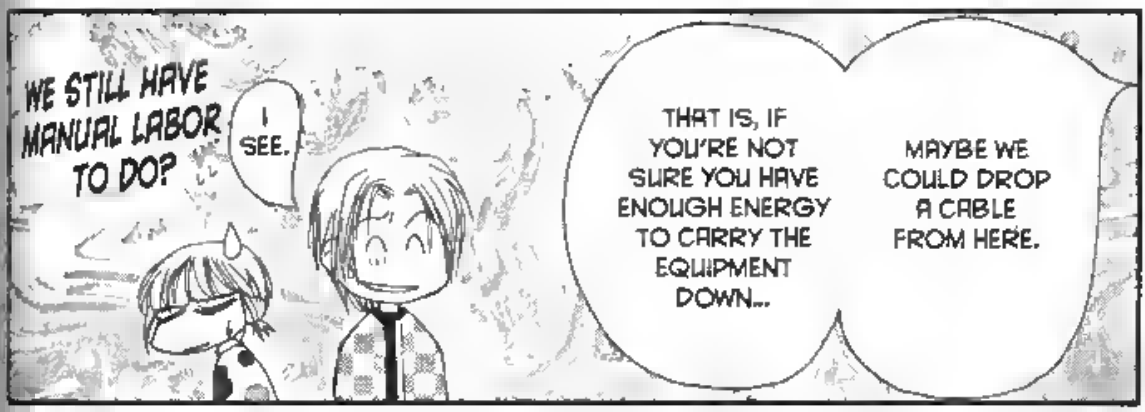
AYAKO, YOUR HOME IS A SHRINE TOO, RIGHT? IS IT HARD LIVING THERE?

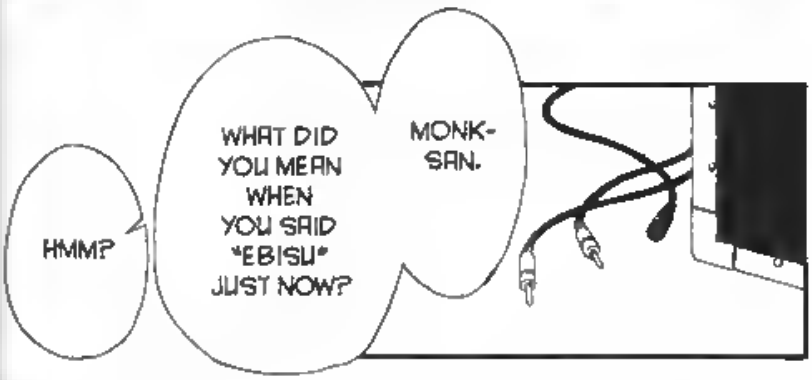
I KNOW, I KNOW.
HA HA HA
WE'RE QUITE STERN WITH OUR CHILDREN.
I COME FROM A TEMPLE, TOO.
THEY'RE REQUIRED TO ASSIST IN THE CLEANING.
UNFORTU-NATELY...
HUH?

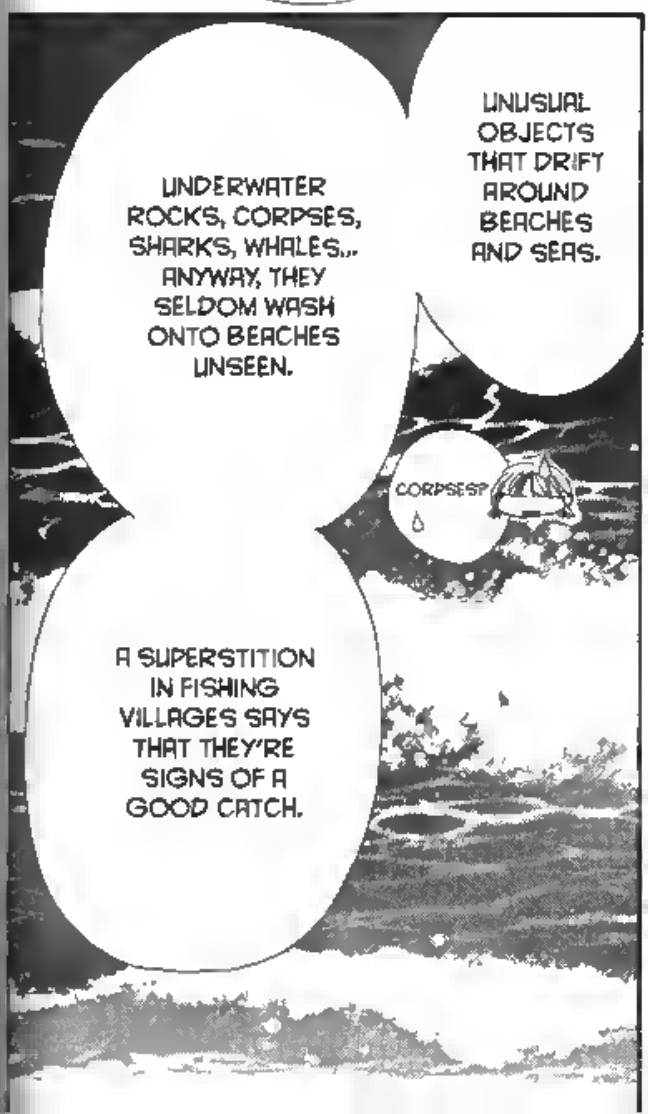
YOU ADMIT IT?
HAH!
I DON'T HAVE TO HELP WITH ANY CHORES.
ME, I WAS RAISED LIKE A PRINCESS. AS A SPOILED, ONLY CHILD.
THEN, AYAKO, WHAT DO YOU DO?
I'M WRONG!?
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU... MY HOUSE IS NOT IN A SHRINE.
OHHH
I'M A DOCTOR.
WHAT!
UH-HUH.
A DOCTOR? AS IN THE FILTHY RICH, PRESTIGIOUS KIND!?
HMM?
YOUNG MASTER, WHAT'S THIS INSIDE?
THEN HOW ARE YOU A MIKO...
IS THIS ICHIHARA ECCHAN!?
I WORK AT A GENERAL HOSPITAL MYSELF, SO YOU MIGHT SAY I'M RICH.
A HOUSE-KEEPER DOES EVERYTHING FOR ME.

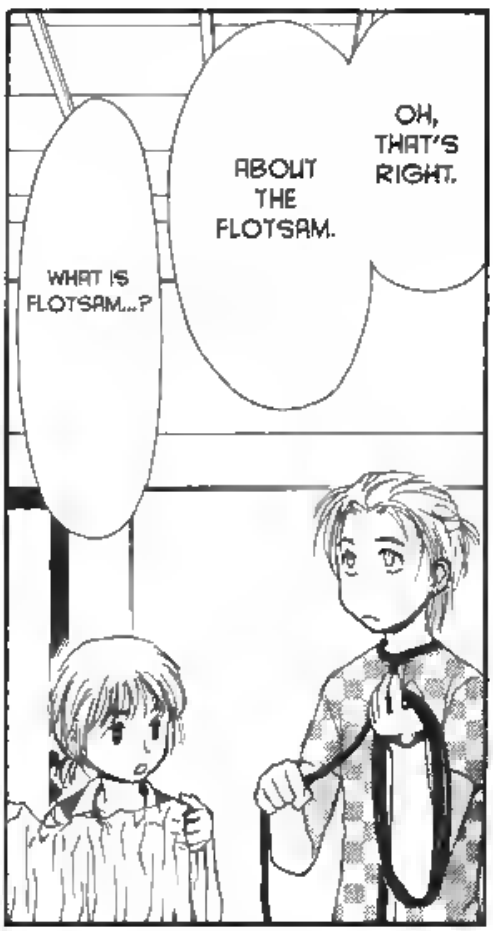
THAT IS DRIFT-WOOD.
AT LEAST I THINK THAT'S WHAT IT IS.
WE CALL IT "O-KOBU-SAMA."
"O-KOBU..." AS IN THE KOBU SEAWEED ON THAT ROCK?
OH YEAH, IT IS...
AND LOOK, CAN YOU SEE HOW IT'S MAKING A GESTURE LIKE THIS?
THE BULGES LOOK LIKE A HUMAN HEAD AND HANDS.
THAT'S PROBABLY TRUE.
THIS POSE LOOKS LIKE A BUDDHA STATUE.
I THINK THAT'S WHY WE ENSHRINED IT.
IS IT EBISU?

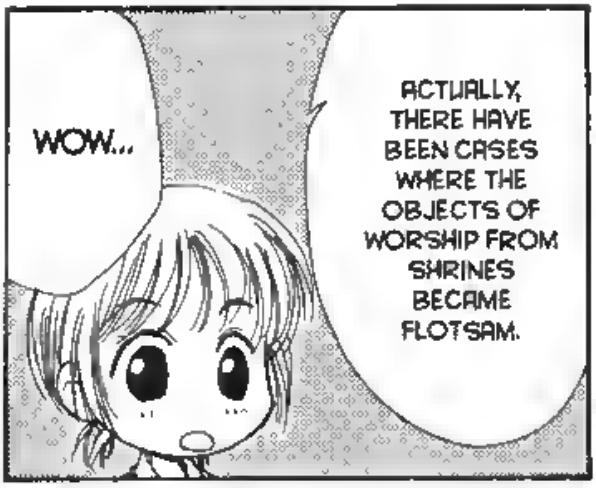
IF WE CAN RESOLVE THE SEAWATER ISSUE, WE'LL SET IT UP, BUT WHERE DO WE GET ELECTRICITY...
SAY, EVERY-ONE, SHALL WE PUT SOME MONITORING EQUIPMENT DOWN IN THE CAVE?
ONE BATTERY CAN ONLY LAST TWO HOURS.
EBISU?
THE POINT IS THAT THEY GIVE US THE ABILITY TO SWITCH THE EQUIPMENT ON AND OFF TO CONSERVE POWER.
AT THAT RATE THE BATTERIES COULD LAST US HALF A DAY...
FOR EXAMPLE, SAY WE WANT TO RECORD ONLY TEN MINUTES OUT OF EVERY HOUR.
WHAT ARE THOSE?
ALTHOUGH I DID BRING ALONG SOME INTERVAL TIMERS.
A DEVICE THAT SWITCHES POWER ON AND OFF AT PRESET TIMES.
ABOUT TEN METERS.
—OH, ANY IDEA HOW HIGH THAT CLIFF IS?
GOTCHA.

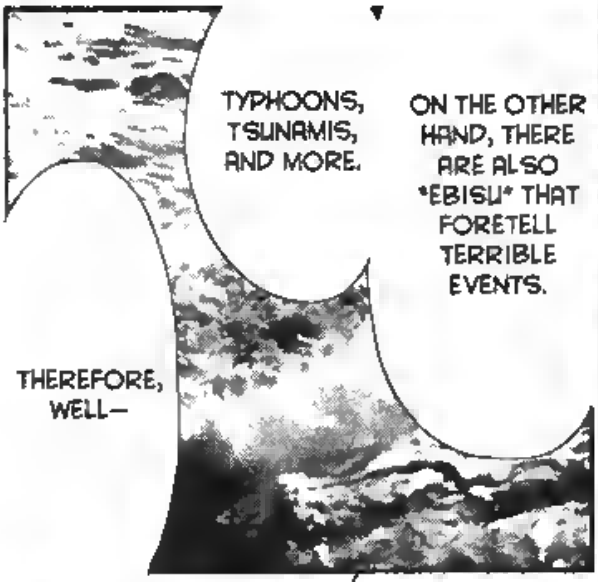

WE STILL HAVE MANUAL LABOR TO DO?
I SEE.
THAT IS, IF YOU'RE NOT SURE YOU HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO CARRY THE EQUIPMENT DOWN...
MAYBE WE COULD DROP A CABLE FROM HERE.


HMM?
WHAT DID YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAID "EBISU" JUST NOW?
MONK-SAN.


UNDERWATER ROCKS, CORPSES, SHARKS, WHALES... ANYWAY, THEY SELDOM WASH ONTO BEACHES UNSEEN.
UNUSUAL OBJECTS THAT DRIFT AROUND BEACHES AND SEAS.
CORPSES?
A SUPERSTITION IN FISHING VILLAGES SAYS THAT THEY'RE SIGNS OF A GOOD CATCH.


WHAT IS FLOTSAM...?
ABOUT THE FLOTSAM.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.


WOW...
ACTUALLY, THERE HAVE BEEN CASES WHERE THE OBJECTS OF WORSHIP FROM SHRINES BECAME FLOTSAM.


TYPHOONS, TSUNAMIS, AND MORE.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE ALSO "EBISU" THAT FORETELL TERRIBLE EVENTS.
THEREFORE, WELL—

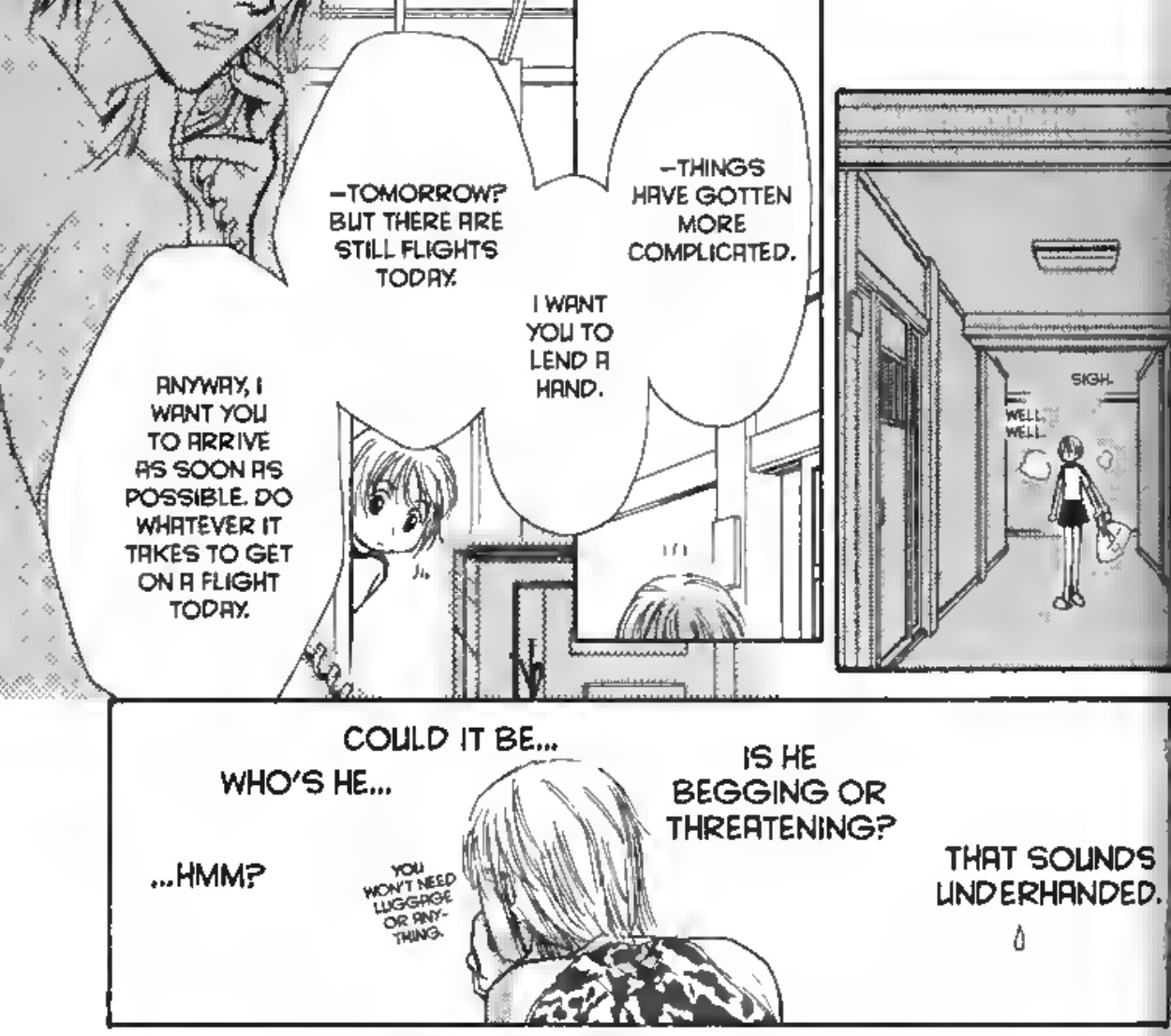
IN THE BEGINNING, EBISU WERE OBJECTS FROM THE SEA THAT WERE DEIFIED.
ORIGINALLY THE WORD WAS WRITTEN WITH THE CHARACTER "夷."

THIS FLOTSAM HAS BEEN CALLED EBISU SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.
IN PARTICULAR, AN UNUSUALLY SHAPED STONE OR DRIFTWOOD WITH A PLEASING SHAPE.
THEY'RE HARBINGERS OF GOOD THINGS, SO THEY'RE DISPLAYED WITH GREAT CARE.
THAT DRIFTWOOD IS ALSO AN O-KOBU-SAMA.

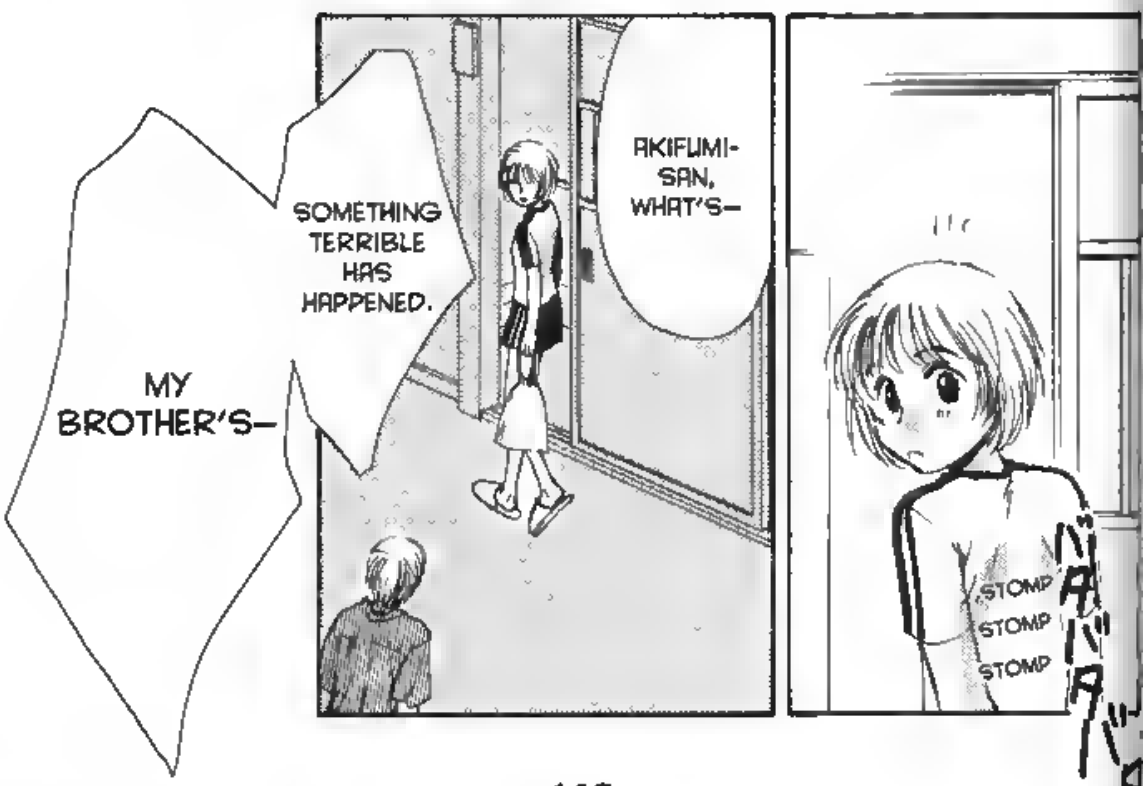
YEAAAAH...
IN THE MIDST OF CONFUSION
ARE YOU OK?
EVEN THE WRITING FOR THE GOOD-LUCK EBISU CHANGED TO "恵比寿"
LATER, THEY BECAME THE GODS OF PROSPEROUS BUSINESS.
IT WAS THOUGHT THAT THE OBJECTS FROM THE SEA CAME FROM TOKOYO.
ONE OF THEM WAS A COUNTRY OF ETERNAL YOUTH. IT WAS BELIEVED TO BE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE SEA.
IN THE VERY BEGINNING, THERE WERE SEVERAL ENTITIES OF WORSHIP IN JAPAN CALLED TOKOYO.
OBJECTS FROM THE SEA.

SO I THINK THERE WAS SOMETHING NARU WAS TRYING TO TELL ME.
THE O-KOBU-SAMA THAT DRIFTED ASHORE ARE SUMMONED SPIRITS.
THE CAVE AND SACRED GROUND.
THE SHRINE AND THE MOUNDS
"I ONLY GUIDED YOU INTO THE DREAM—"
SO THEN...
THE TWO STONES WITH A LEGEND
THE COUPLE WHO THREW THEIR BODIES INTO THE SEA
EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT LEGEND BEFORE PLAINLY SHE RECOUNTED IT...
THAT'S DEFINITELY WHAT NARU SAID.
DOES THE LEGEND HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS CASE?
...I HAD THAT DREAM.

LIKE THE PART OF BEING SURROUNDED WITH NO ESCAPE!
THUD
COULD IT BE...
DOES SOME-THING ELSE IN THE DREAM HAVE A CONNECTION?
OR...
SCRITCH
KERSPLASH!
I WOULD UNDERSTAND IF YOU'D JUST TELL ME MORE CLEARLY!
AW, MAN!
EVEN THOUGH THE COUPLE IN THE LEGEND FLUNG THEM-SELVES INTO THE SEA...
...MAYBE...
...NARU HAS BEEN GUIDING ALL MY DREAMS UNTIL NOW.
"THEY MUST BE CURSED UNTIL THE END OF DAYS."
IN MY DREAM, I THINK I DID ALMOST EVERYTHING ELSE THE SAME.
SO THAT LINE:


—TOMORROW? BUT THERE ARE STILL FLIGHTS TODAY.
—THINGS HAVE GOTTEN MORE COMPLICATED.
I WANT YOU TO LEND A HAND.
ANYWAY, I WANT YOU TO ARRIVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET ON A FLIGHT TODAY.
SIGH.
WELL, WELL.

COULD IT BE...
WHO'S HE...
IS HE BEGGING OR THREATENING?
...HMM?
YOU WON'T NEED LUGGAGE OR ANY-THING.
THAT SOUNDS UNDERHANDED.

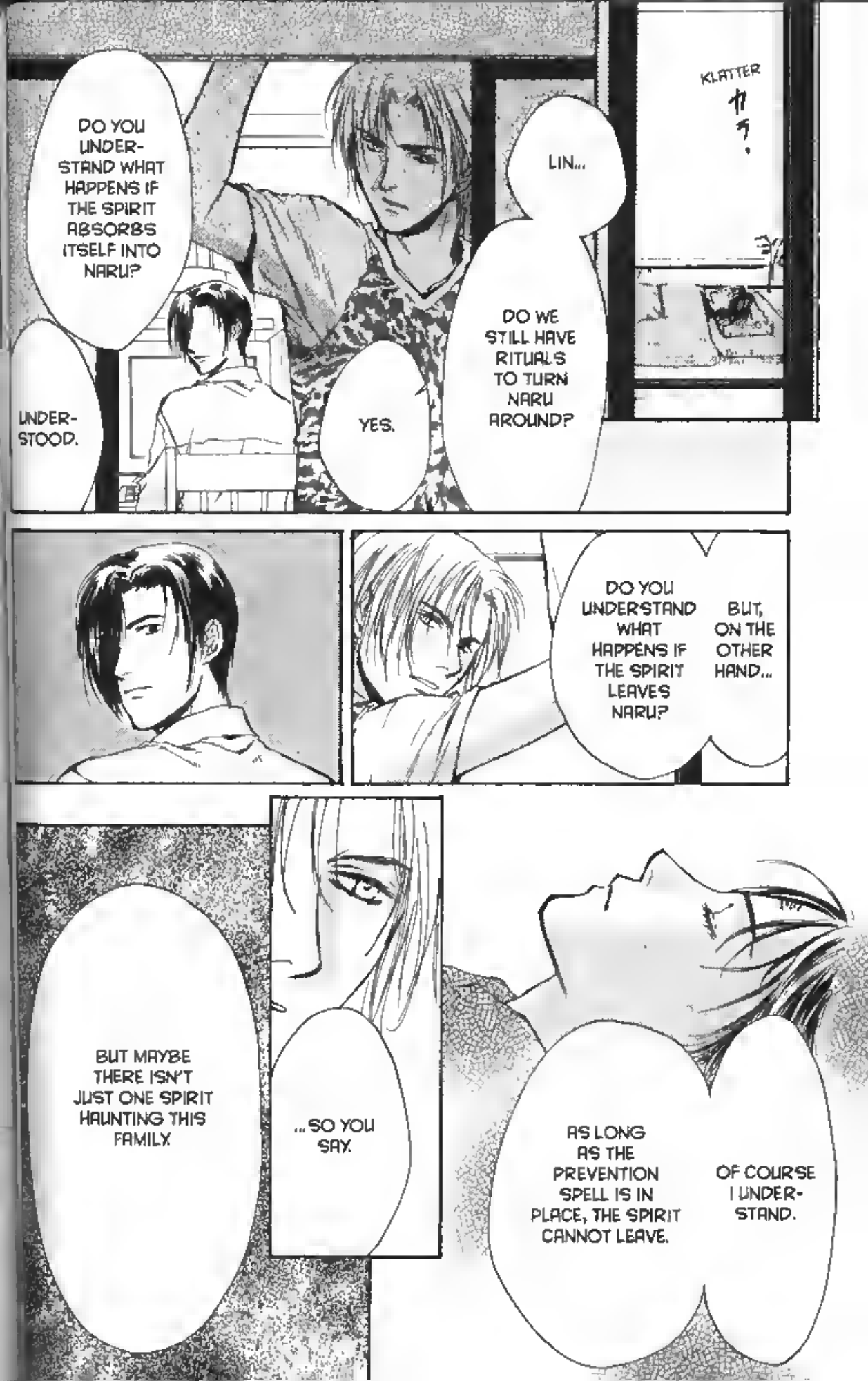

AKIFUMI-SAN, WHAT'S—
SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED.
MY BROTHER'S—
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

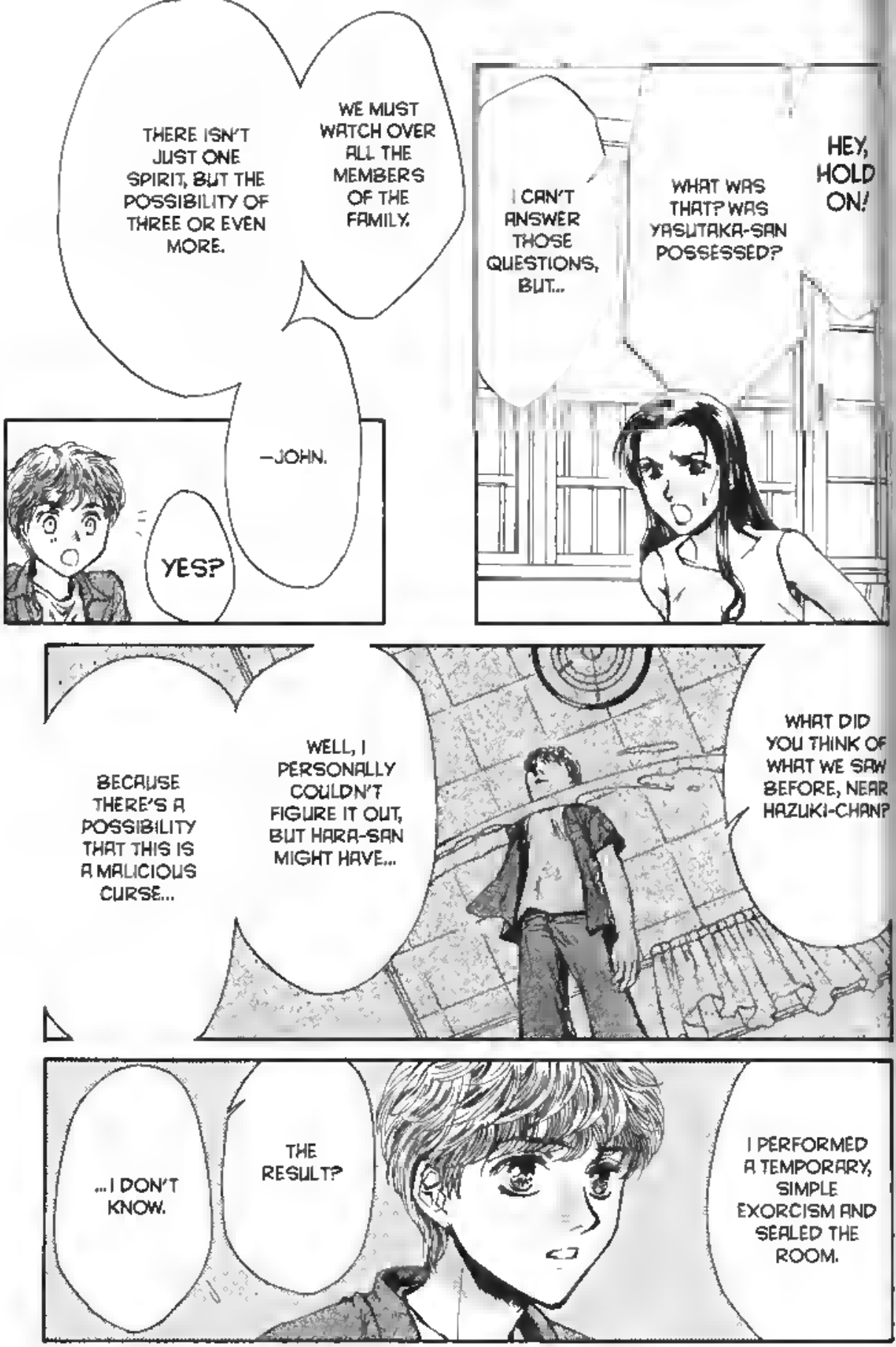
WHEEEEEEEEZ...
BAM
YASUTAKA-SA-
YOUNG MASTER, CALL AN AMBULANCE!
IT'S ON ITS WAY.
KLATTER

TRY TO HANG ON!
-HEY THERE...
...ONEE-SAN.
WH-WHAT IS IT?
TREMBLE
DID YASU-OJII-CHAN DIE?
IS HE DEAD?
HUH...?
THESE CHILDREN...

HE'S STILL ALIVE.
HOW CAN THAT BE?
BIIIYAAAR
BIIIYAAAR
BIIIYAAAR
BIIIYAAAR

...APPARENTLY HEARS VOICES WHEN HE'S ALONE.
MY BROTHER—
STILL, HE DOESN'T BELIEVE HE COULD EVER REALLY HARM HIS FAMILY.
THESE DREAMS WERE SO DISTURBING HE FELT HE COULDN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THEM.
"I THOUGHT I WOULD DIE BEFORE THAT HAPPENED."
HE SAID WHEN HE SLEEPS, HE ACTUALLY DOES HAVE DREAMS OF KILLING THEM.
THEY SAY, "KILL YOUR FAMILY."
HE CAN FEEL HIS HANDS STABBING THEM, AND THEN HE WAKES UP.
NO, NO...
IT'S ALSO MY FAULT FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO SHIBUYA-SAN.
WE DEEPLY APOLOGIZE FOR NOT PREVENTING THIS.
BECAUSE WE WERE LATE IN DISCOVERING THIS, THERE WAS ONE VICTIM.


KLATTER
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS IF THE SPIRIT ABSORBS ITSELF INTO NARU?
UNDERSTOOD.
LIN...
DO WE STILL HAVE RITUALS TO TURN NARU AROUND?
YES.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS IF THE SPIRIT LEAVES NARU?
BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND...
BUT MAYBE THERE ISN'T JUST ONE SPIRIT HAUNTING THIS FAMILY.
...SO YOU SAY.
AS LONG AS THE PREVENTION SPELL IS IN PLACE, THE SPIRIT CANNOT LEAVE.
OF COURSE I UNDERSTAND.


THERE ISN'T JUST ONE SPIRIT, BUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THREE OR EVEN MORE.
WE MUST WATCH OVER ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY.
—JOHN.
YES?
I CAN'T ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS, BUT...
WHAT WAS THAT? WAS YASUTAKA-SAN POSSESSED?
HEY, HOLD ON!
BECAUSE THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT THIS IS A MALICIOUS CURSE...
WELL, I PERSONALLY COULDN'T FIGURE IT OUT, BUT HARA-SAN MIGHT HAVE...
WHAT DID YOU THINK OF WHAT WE SAW BEFORE, NEAR HAZUKI-CHAN?
...I DON'T KNOW.
THE RESULT?
I PERFORMED A TEMPORARY, SIMPLE EXORCISM AND SEALED THE ROOM.

MASAKO.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS SPIRIT IS?
...I DO NOT KNOW.
ONLY...
...THAT I HAVE THE SAME FEELINGS AS THE SPIRIT POSSESSING NARU.
IF I HAD TO SAY, IT IS AN EMPTY SPIRIT.
IF THERE WERE NO RESENTMENT, I WOULD NOT SENSE THIS GRUDGE.
I SEE...
AND YOU, MAI?
ME!?
DO YOU SENSE ANY-THING? IT'S FINE EITHER WAY.
IF YOU HAVE THOSE DREAMS AGAIN, WILL YOU GET TRAPPED IN THEM?
UH—
UM...
"THEY MUST BE CURSED UNTIL THE END OF DAYS."

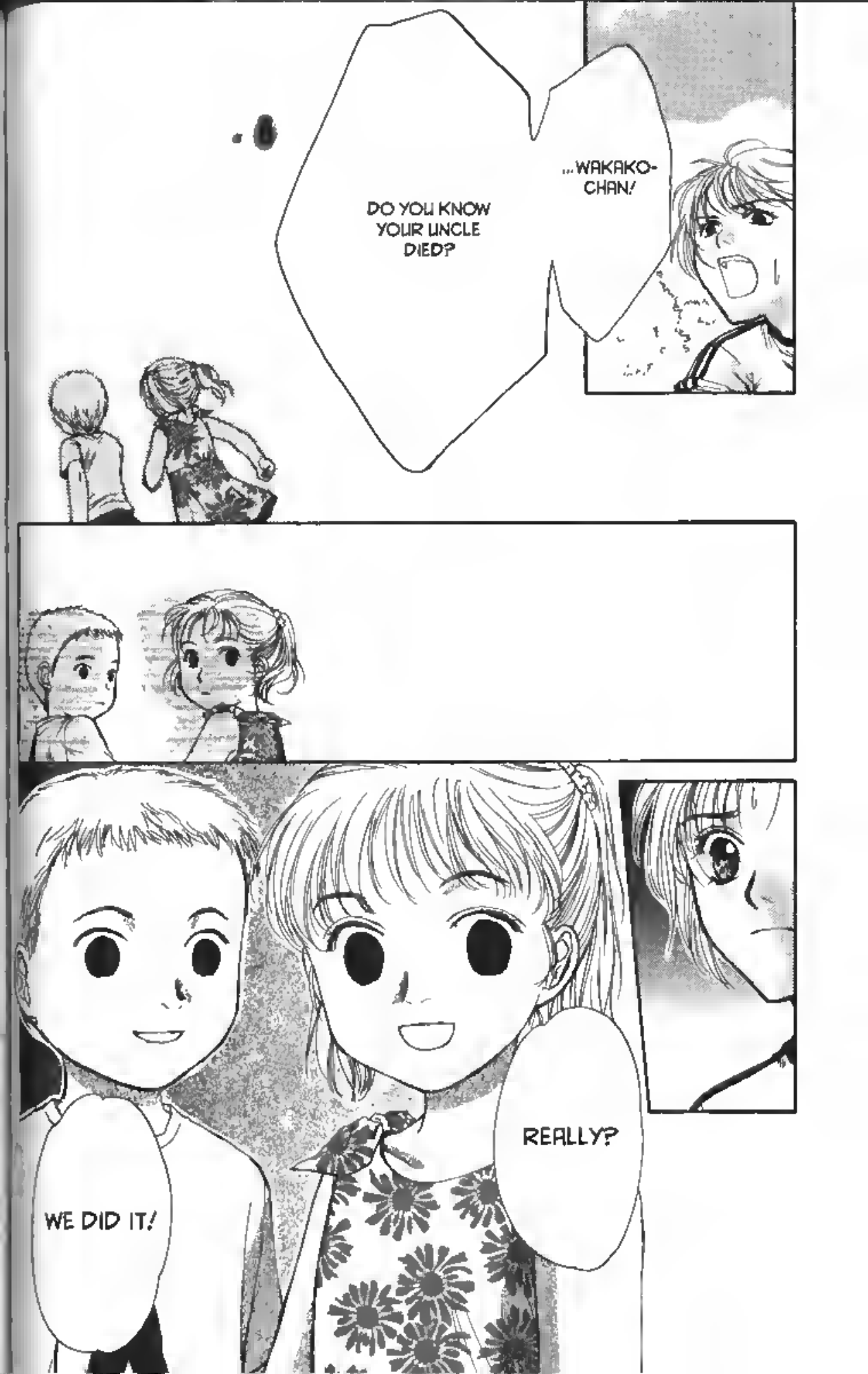
THIS MIGHT SEEM TO BE IN CONFLICT WITH MASAKO'S OPINION...
... BUT I THINK THERE ARE DEAD PEOPLE HARBORING A GRUDGE.
PEOPLE WHO WERE BRUTALLY BETRAYED, SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES, AND KILLED.
AT THIS POINT, THE DEAD PEOPLE... PROBABLY NO LONGER HAVE A CONNECTION WITH THIS LAND.
IF IT IS THAT KIND OF SPIRIT, I SHOULD HAV RECOGNIZED IT ALREADY.
YEAH
IT WAS PROBABLY JUST A DREAM.
IT WAS JUST A DREAM.
GULP
WHAT DO YOU THINK? HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
NO...I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT STORY.
WELL THEN...
DO WE KNOW AROUND WHEN THE YOSHIMI FAMILY MOVED HERE?
I ASKED THAT, AMONG OTHER QUESTIONS, AND EVEN MY GRANDMOTHER DIDN'T KNOW...
I'M SORRY

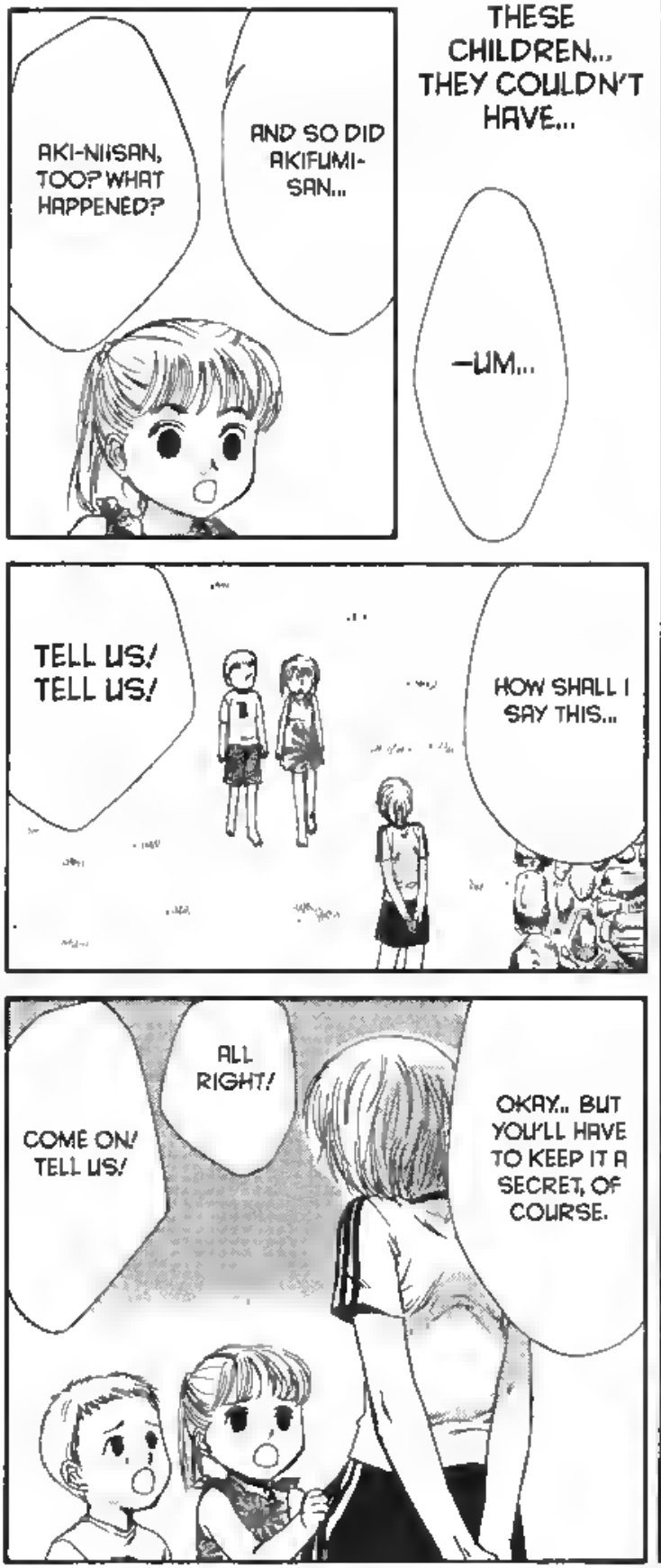
SCRITCH SCRITCH
.....
"BUSINESS REPORT"...
JOHN, GO TO THE HOSPITAL AND TRY AN EXORCISM ON YASUTAKA-SAN.
WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, SUBMIT THE BUSINESS REPORT, AS I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE.
I WON'T FAIL A SECOND TIME.
I'LL GO RIGHT NOW.
AYAKO, HAND OUT THE CHARMS. GIVE ONE TO EVERY HUMAN AMONG THE FAMILY AND ALL OF US.
O-K.
I'LL HEAD OUT SHORTLY.
AKIFUMI-SAN...
YES?
MY APOLOGIES FOR ASKING, BUT COULD YOU SHOW US YOUR FAMILY TEMPLE?

I'M FINE. I WON'T NEED THIS.
OH.
BUT THEN...
IF I WEAR IT, WILL IT HAVE ANY EFFECT?
YES, UM...
IT'S A CHARM THAT PREVENTS SPIRITS FROM BEING SUMMONED.
AND IF YOU REMOVE IT FROM YOUR BODY, YOU'LL ALSO REMOVE ITS EFFECT.
BUT WHEN I TAKE A BATH, WHAT SHALL I DO?
I CAN'T TAKE IT WITH ME. IT'S PAPER.

THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
BUT WAIT... STILL, PLEASE WEAR IT TO REDUCE THE DANGERS.
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL DO IT.
KLATTER
UH?
UM—
MISS—
YOU FORGOT...
SLAAM

THIS IS NO GOOD!
I HAVE A FAVOR TO...
HEY, YOU TWO, WAIT UP. THIS IS IMPORTANT.
THIS IS NO GOOD!
WHY DO THOSE TWO HATE ME?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT—


DO YOU KNOW YOUR UNCLE DIED?
...WAKAKO-CHAN!
REALLY?
WE DID IT!


AKI-NII-SAN, TOO? WHAT HAPPENED?
AND SO DID AKIFUMI-SAN...
THESE CHILDREN... THEY COULDN'T HAVE...
—UM...
TELL US! TELL US!
HOW SHALL I SAY THIS...
ALL RIGHT!
COME ON! TELL US!
OKAY... BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP IT A SECRET, OF COURSE.

WHACK
AKI-NIISAN DIED?
WAS HE RIDING IN A CAR?
MAI? WHAT'S GOING ON?
LET GO!
A CAR?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "A CAR"?
LET GO OF WAKA-CHAN!
KATSUKI-KUN!

DON'T DO IT!
RYAKO, HOLD THE CHARM OVER WAKAKO-CHAN.
NO.
TELL ME WHY YOU THOUGHT IT WAS A CAR.
LET GO OF HER!
TELL ME WHAT YOU MEANT BY A CAR.
IF YOU DO THAT, I'LL JUMP INTO THE SEA!
WE'RE ATTACHING A CHARM TO WAKAKO-CHAN THAT CAN'T BE TAKEN OFF.
I UNDER-STAND! IF I DIE, EVERY-ONE WILL BE HURT.
I THINK DYING WILL BE PAINFUL.
...KATSUKI-KUN.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

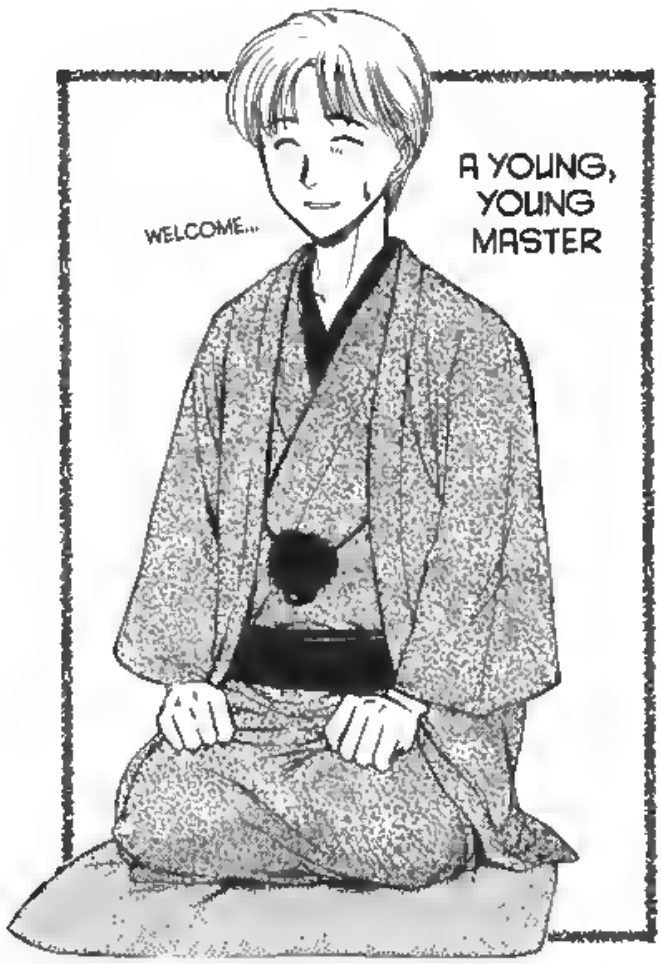
EVERYONE.
I KNOW! I WANT TO SHOW THAT IT'S PAINFUL.
...SHOW WHO?
KATSUKI-KUN.
WHO ARE YOU, REALLY?
YOU'RE NOT KATSUKI-KUN, RIGHT?
YOU'RE LYING. YOU'RE REALLY NOT AFRAID?
THEN YOU'LL HAVE NO PROBLEM HOLDING ONE.
I'M NOT AFRAID!
THE REAL KATSUKI-KUN WOULDN'T BE AFRAID OF CHARMS.

I'LL START KILLING PEOPLE.
EVEN THIS CHILD.
AND EVERY-ONE IN THIS FAMILY.
EVEN YOU.
"WE SHOULDN'T INVOKE THESE BUDDHIST POWERS DIRECTLY ONTO A HUMAN.
IT'S DANGEROUS."

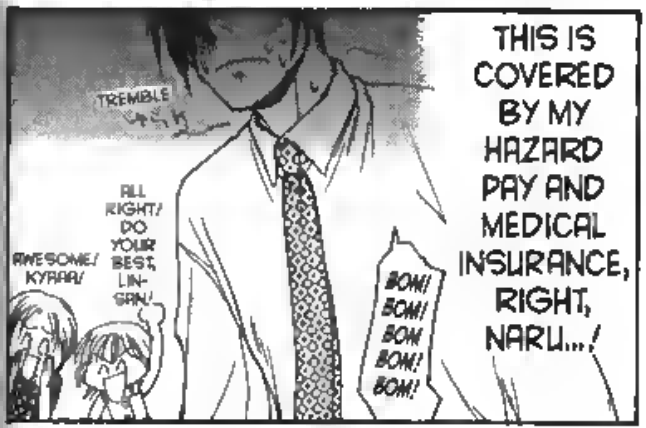
JUMPING INTO THE SEA WOULD BE MERCIFUL. IT'LL BE FUN.
"BUT THEN, I TRIED TO DO IT WITH A FRIEND."
—THAT'S RIGHT.
COMPARED TO CUTTING SOMEONE'S NECK.
SINCE I'M SO LOW-LEVEL, THERE SHOULD BE NO DANGER TO HIM.
"YOU'RE SECOND LEVEL."
"THAT'S TOO LOW-LEVEL, SO NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN."
YOU WERE THE ONE...
...WHO CUT HER NECK?

BUT...
IF I CAN GET HIM TALKING ABOUT HIS COMRADES' BETRAYAL...
WHAT DID THIS FAMILY DO TO YOU?
BAH-DUM
WHAT IS MY GUARANTEE THAT THIS TIME WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM...?
FOR STARTERS...
RELEASE YOURSELF FROM THAT BOY.
IF THE BOY DIES, HE'S USELESS.
THAT'S HOW I'LL RELEASE HIM.

– CONTINUED IN VOL. 9 –


WELCOME...
A YOUNG, YOUNG MASTER

#1

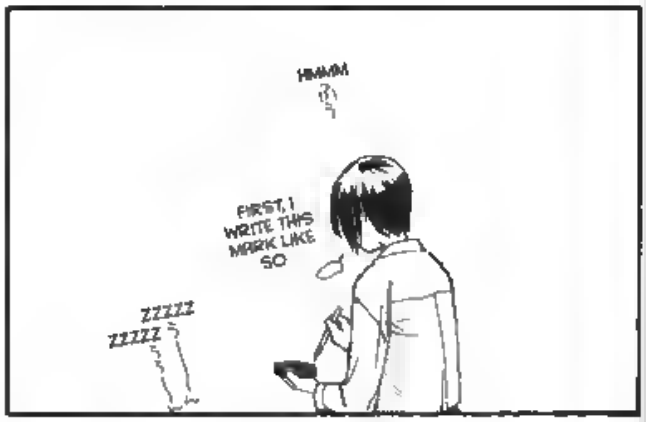

TREMBLE
ALL RIGHT! DO YOUR BEST, LIN-SAN!
AWESOME! KYAAA!
BOW! BOW! BOW BOW! BOW!
THIS IS COVERED BY MY HAZARD PAY AND MEDICAL INSURANCE, RIGHT, NARU...!

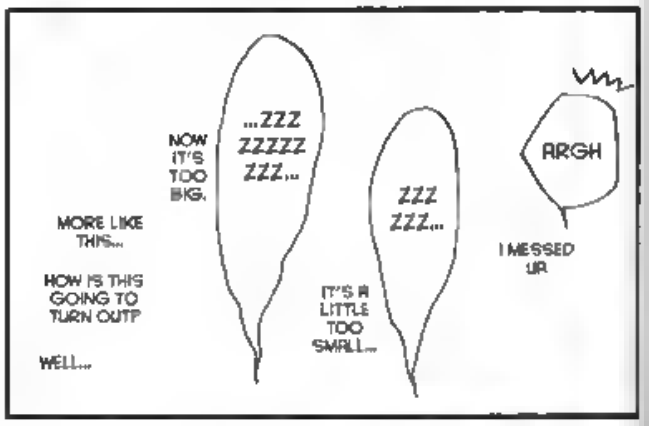
4-PANEL GAG COMIC EXTRA

DO-YOUR-BEST LIN-SAN <RETURNS>

SPECIAL ♥ THANX

A. SAKAMOTO
M. HONMA
C. INOUE
♥
R. ONO
♥
editor / K. KAWAMOTO
♥
and You ♥





About the Creators of Ghost Hunt

ABOUT THE CREATOR

•

Shiho Inada

Born on October 17 in Kanagawa Prefecture.

Sign: Libra.

Blood type: B.

She made her debut with *Camouflage* in 1994.

Her best-known work is *Ghost Hunt*.

ABOUT THE WRITER

•

Fuyumi Ono

Born in Oita Prefecture.

She made her debut with *Teen's Heart*,
published on Kodansha X Library.

Her most popular works are the *Evil Spirit* series and the *Twelve Kingdom* series.

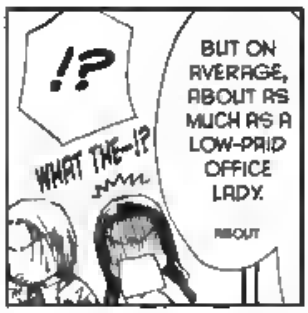
Her works are widely read, and although her novels are considered young adult fiction, her works are read by people from all walks of life.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the pieces where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

PAGE 8, *SHIIIIN JIIII*

These are the classic sounds of a lazy summer day in Japan. The "*shiiiin*" is the loud, inescepeble sound thet the cicadas make in both the city streets and the countryside. The "*jiiii*" is the figurative sound of silence, "made" when everything in the scene has come to a standstill. It is the symbolic equivalent of crickets chirping in Western comedies.



PAGE 10, OFFICE LADY/OL

Office ladies are the stereotypical female office workers of Jepen. Even in meny companies now, OLs often perform the most menial clerical work. While they are at the bottom of the totem pole et the Jepenese workplace, they still have slightly more prestige than high school students with part-time jobs.

PAGE 10, *NARU-BOU*

The monk Houshou Takigawa calls Kazuye Shibuye by the nickname "*Naru-bou.*" As explained in the beginning of the book, almost everyone calls Shibuye "Naru" (short for "narcissist"). Takigawa adds the suffix "*-bou*" (monk or priest), similer to how other people call Takigawe "*Bou-san*" ("Monk-san").

PAGE 17, YOU CAN SIT BACK

In traditional settings, Japanese people are supposed to sit down by kneeling on their lower legs. Many young people (end older people who won't admit to it) can't do this without their legs going numb, so they prefer to sit cross-legged instead.

PAGE 28, TIGER AND DRAGON

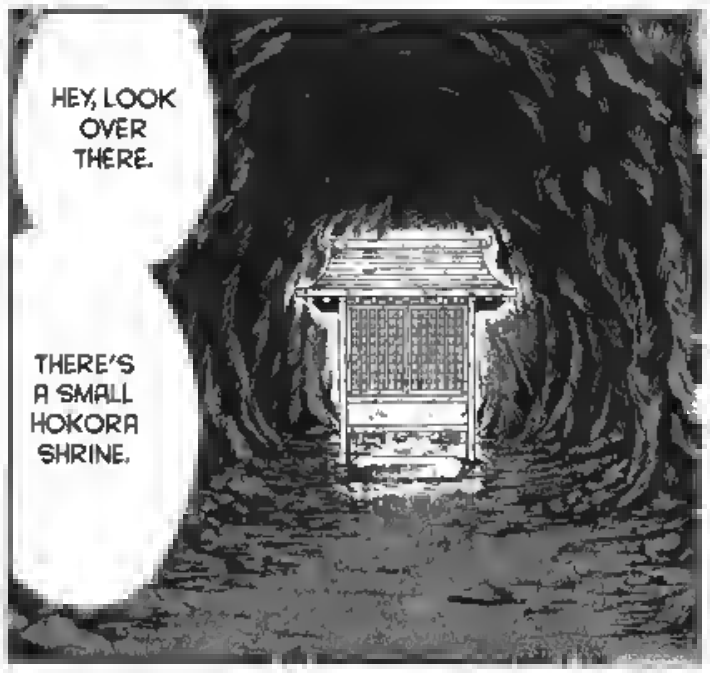
Tigers and dragons are time-honored polar opposites in many Asian mythologies. Tigers represent the passive *yin* half of existence, while dragons represent the assertive *yang* half.

PAGE 28, UNDERAGE

In Japan, children are considered minors and can't marry without parental consent until they turn twenty.

PAGE 35, –NIISAN

Nii, when coupled with any honorific (such as *–san* or *–sama*), can mean that the addressee is an older sibling or simply an older sibling-like figure. When addressing a male, it is pronounced "knee-san." When addressing a female it is pronounced "neigh-sen" (*neigh* as in the sound a horse makes).



PAGE 110, *HOKORA* SHRINE

Hokora shrines are small, often portable Shinto shrines that are offshoots of larger shrines nearby. They represent the minor deities that Shinto followers believe can be found virtually everywhere in nature.

PAGE 125, KANAZAWA

Kanazawa is the capital of and the largest city in tha Ishikawa prefecture on tha westarn coast of Japan. It is famous for its cuisina and vibrant cultural attractions.

PAGE 125, ANSEI ERA

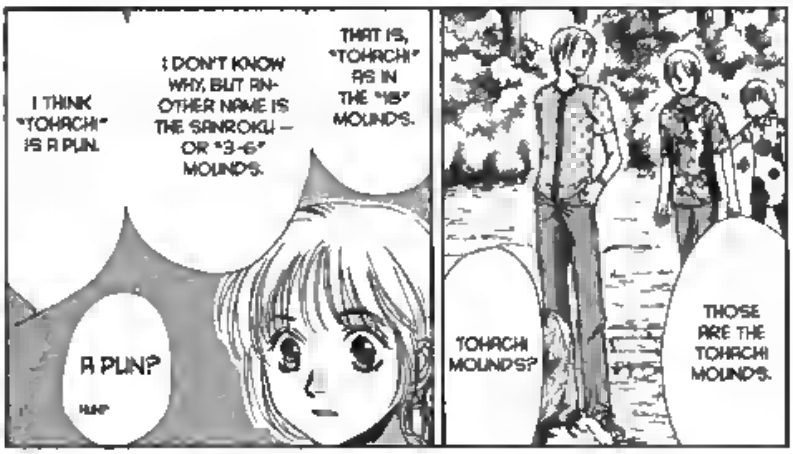
Tha Ansai Era (1854-1860) is best known for tha reign of tha Emperor Komei.

PAGE 126, GENJI AND HEIKE WAR

Tha Ganji and Haika War (abbreviated as the Genpei War) took place from 1180 to 1185. It pitted tha Minamoto clan against tha Taira clan for control of Japan's throne. (Tha kanji for Minamoto and Taira can be pronounced as "Genji" and "Haike.")

PAGE 129, YOUNG MASTER

Wakadana or "young master" is tha titla givan to tha hair of a household by his hired halp. It's similar to how tha butlar Alfred calls his boss "Master Bruce" in tha *Batman* stories.


I THINK "TOHACHI" IS A PUN.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT ANOTHER NAME IS THE SANROKU — OR "3-6" MOUNDS.
THAT IS, "TOHACHI" AS IN THE "18" MOUNDS.
A PUN?
HM?
TOHACHI MOUNDS?
THOSE ARE THE TOHACHI MOUNDS.

PAGE 134, *TOHACHI*, SANROKU MOUNDS

Tohachi is another way of saying *juuhachi* or "eighteen" in Japanase. (*Juu* or *to* is Japanese for ten, and *hachi* is eight.) *San* is Japanasa for three, and *roku* is six, so *san* times *roku* also equals eighteen.

PAGE 141, ICHIHARA ECCHAN

Etsuko "Ecchan" Ichihere is Japan's "Queen of Movies" who has performed in over sixty movies and television works in the pest half-century. She is renown for choosing very diverse roles from Hamlet's mother to cereer women; Mal is mocking Ayako for her multiple job titles (and meking a subtle dig at Ayako's ege).

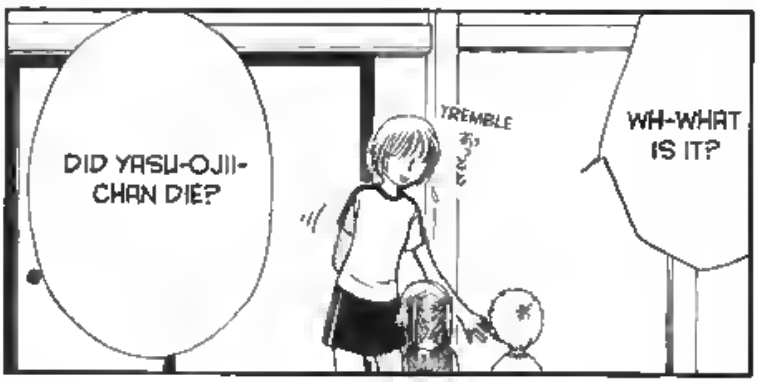
IS THIS ICHIHARA ECCHAN!?
I WORK AT A GENERAL HOSPITAL MYSELF, SO YOU MIGHT SAY I'M RICH.
UWAH. US MERE MORTALS ARE BLINDED BY YOUR RADIANCE.
A HOUSE-KEEPER DOES EVERYTHING FOR ME.

PAGE 142, *KOBU* SEAWEED

Kobu (or *konbu)* is a dark green, edible seaweed found along the coast of Jepan as well as nearby countries. Many Jepanese, Chinese, and Koreen dishes use it, but you mey be most familiar with its use in sushi.

PAGE 151, *-OJII-CHAN*

Adding *–ojii-chan* to e person's name indicates that person is the speeker's uncle, or an older male figure who plays a similar role.



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